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PC told to resign for leaking data

A police constable who leaked information on a private individual stored on a police computer to a private investigator was yesterday required to resign from the Thames Valley force. Another constable in the same force has retired on health grounds but would otherwise have faced disciplinary charges for a similar offence.

Botha-Kaunda useful summit

Useful was the official cautious description of the exchange of views between Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister and President Kaunda of Zambia in a caravan straddling the Republic's border with Botswana.

Page 5

Statesman staff accept editor

Staff at the *New Statesman* accepted Mr Hugh Stephenson, former editor of *The Times Business News*, as their new editor after a series of meetings. Mr Stephenson said he had accepted the editorship in principle, subject to detailed agreement over terms. *Profile*, page 2

BNOC plans to expand abroad

The state-owned British National Oil Corporation, which yesterday reported record annual pretax profits of £438m, is planning to expand overseas, partly in response to North Sea oil taxes.

Page 15

Prince receives freedom of town



Iranians launch second attack

Iraq claims to have followed recent Gulf War victories with advances on the southern front and the capture of 1,000 Iraqi prisoners. The Iraqis say they have counter-attacked.

Page 5

Villa fined for crowd trouble

Aston Villa, the European Cup finalists, were fined £14,500 and ordered to play their next home European tie behind closed doors as a result of crowd disturbances during their semi-final match against Anderlecht in Brussels.

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Hongkong hint

China's newly-drafted constitution, which allows for special administrative regions, may provide an indication of what will happen to Hongkong when Britain's lease of the colony expires in 1997.

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Letters: On Christians and war, from the Reverend P G Atkinson, and Mr David Evans; inner-city housing, from Mr David Webb and others; public lending right, from Lord Willis.

Leading articles: Falklands, Thailand, Features: page 9

The most pulsing Pan-khurst, by Jill Craigie; the world comes to Knoxville, Tennessee; the easy way out for Poland's internees.

Obituary, page 14

Major Richard Gatehouse, Air Vice-Marshal H V Satterly, Frau Ilse von Hassell.

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US imposes economic and military curbs on Argentina

The United States came down firmly on Britain's side in the Falklands crisis yesterday. Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, announced limited military and economic sanctions against Argentina.

• Senator Costa Méndez, the Argentine Foreign Minister, said his country was ready to continue peace efforts. But sovereignty was not negotiable.

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, April 30

The United States finally came out in support of Britain in its dispute with Argentina over the Falkland Islands, today, announcing limited military and economic sanctions against Argentina and its willingness to supply material support to British forces.

A statement made by Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, at a hastily-arranged press conference this morning, made it clear that the United States had decided to end its role of "honest broker" because of Argentina's failure to accept the latest American settlement proposals. Mr Haig said that the South Atlantic crisis was about to enter a "new and dangerous phase in which large-scale military action is likely."

Although today's announcement marked the end of his three-week long mediation effort, Mr Haig emphasized that the Reagan Administration remained ready to assist Britain and Argentina in finding "an early and fair settlement".

The decision to side openly with Britain was clearly designed to put maximum pressure on the military junta in Buenos Aires to reconsider the American peace plan before committing itself to a war with Britain.

Mr Haig emphasized in his statement that the United States' effort all along had been to restore peace in the South Atlantic through the implementation of Security Council Resolution 502, which calls for an end to hostilities, as Argentina withdraws, and a diplomatic settlement in the fundamental dispute about the islands.

The sanctions announced

• Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, will be going to Washington today or tomorrow to see Mr Haig and he will go on to New York to see the United Nations Secretary General.

• In Buenos Aires, the Soviet Ambassador had a meeting with an Argentine Minister.

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, April 30

The sources said that money for projects or purchases which were already in the pipeline would be honoured.

The Commodity Credit Corporation has an outstanding loan of \$2m line of credit to Argentina to finance the export of softwood lumber. This will no longer be available.

Observers noted that the United States did not place an embargo on trade with Argentina, which is now running at \$3,000m a year; nor did it attempt to interfere with American private bank loans to Argentina, worth more than \$8,000m.

In announcing that the United States would respond positively to requests for material support for British forces, Mr Haig emphasized that "there will of course be no direct United States military involvement".

In his statement, which was made following a meeting of the National Security Council attended by President Reagan, Mr Haig spelled out the main outlines of the American settlement proposal.

They involved a cessation of hostilities, withdrawal of both Argentine and British forces; termination of sanctions against Argentina; establishment of a United Kingdom-Argentine interim authority to maintain the agreement; continuation of the traditional local administration with Argentine participation; procedures for encouraging cooperation in the development of the island; and a framework for negotiating a final settlement taking into account the interests of both sides and the wishes of the inhabitants.

At the end of March the Export-Import Bank had made loan commitments to Argentina amounting to \$1,200m (about £660m) of which \$700m has yet to be disbursed. This includes \$250m announced last December for a huge hydroelectric project called the Yacareta dam.

Last month the bank made preliminary commitments totalling \$230m for specific projects. Bank sources said this money would be frozen.

Pym flying to talks with Haig and UN

By David Cross

Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, said last night he was extremely glad that the United States had now come down decisively on the side of Britain in the Falklands dispute.

"To have the world's most powerful state on our side must make Argentina see that aggression cannot pay," he told a press conference at the Foreign Office.

Mr Pym said that he would be going to Washington today or tomorrow to review the new situation with Mr Haig to discuss the next steps. He would then go on to New York to see the Secretary-General of the United Nations. "We shall not abandon our efforts for a peaceful settlement," Mr Pym said. "But Argentina must withdraw, as the Security Council resolution demanded four weeks ago.

"Then we shall be entirely ready to move on to the negotiations foreseen in the third point of the resolution. A conference or any other kind of negotiations can be considered."

Mr Pym said it had been the British Government's strategy all along to build up the economic, diplomatic and military pressures on Argentina. "Now, with the United States backing, I am more confident than ever that justice will prevail against

Argentina's totally illegal aggression."

Argentina's rejection of Mr Haig's proposals for a negotiated settlement were a major change in the situation, he continued. "In deciding not to cooperate in negotiations for a peaceful settlement, the Argentines have confirmed their commitment to aggression in defiance of the United Nations."

In response to questions, Mr Pym made it clear that the British Government did not rule out military action during the coming days when he is in the United States. If the Argentines chose to send ships or aircraft into the 200-mile exclusion zone round the Falklands then Britain would respond, he said.

■ Washington's decision to come off the fence and support Britain's position was greeted with relief by politicians of all parties last night. (Philip Webster writes.)

The decision that Mr Pym should meet Señor Pérez de Cuellar seemed certain last night to maintain the broad Commons' unity over the Government's approach. Nothing less would have satisfied Mr Michael Foot and Mr Denis Healey, who have consistently argued for United Nations involvement if the Haig initiative failed.

He repeated Mr Haig's statement that the United States would not become directly involved militarily in the dispute. (Reuters)

■ Mr Haig's announcement of economic sanctions against Argentina drew quick praise from members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (the Press Association reports).

Mr Harold Brown, the former Secretary of Defence, said the actions indicated that President Reagan had gone more than halfway.

Senator Claiborne Pell, the ranking Democrat on the committee, said he had assured Mr Walter Stessin, Under-Secretary of State, over the telephone that he supported the action taken and that he believed the majority of his colleagues did.

Senator Charles Percy said that he thought the Administration's action effectively reflected the sentiment of a resolution adopted by the Senate last night by a 73-1 vote calling for the United States to take steps to help Britain.

Mr Pym last night: Timing of American support for Britain was about right.

Argentines aggressors

—Reagan

Washington, April 30.—President Reagan today called Argentina an aggressor for seizing the Falkland Islands and said aggression must not be allowed to succeed.

He addressed a luncheon meeting of newspaper editors shortly after Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, announced military and economic sanctions against Argentina.

In response to questions, Mr Reagan said the United States had not received any request for assistance from Britain so far.

"What the Secretary (of State) was saying was that we must remember that the aggression was on the part of Argentina in this dispute over the sovereignty of that little ice-cold bunch of land down there," he said.

"The principle that all of us must abide by is armed aggression of that kind must not be allowed to succeed".

He said he will propose some kind of diplomatic solution to the crisis before further military action took place. "We have gone as far as we can go," he said, referring to the mediation efforts of Mr Haig. "I know there are still discussions going on at the United Nations. I believe neither side wants violence."

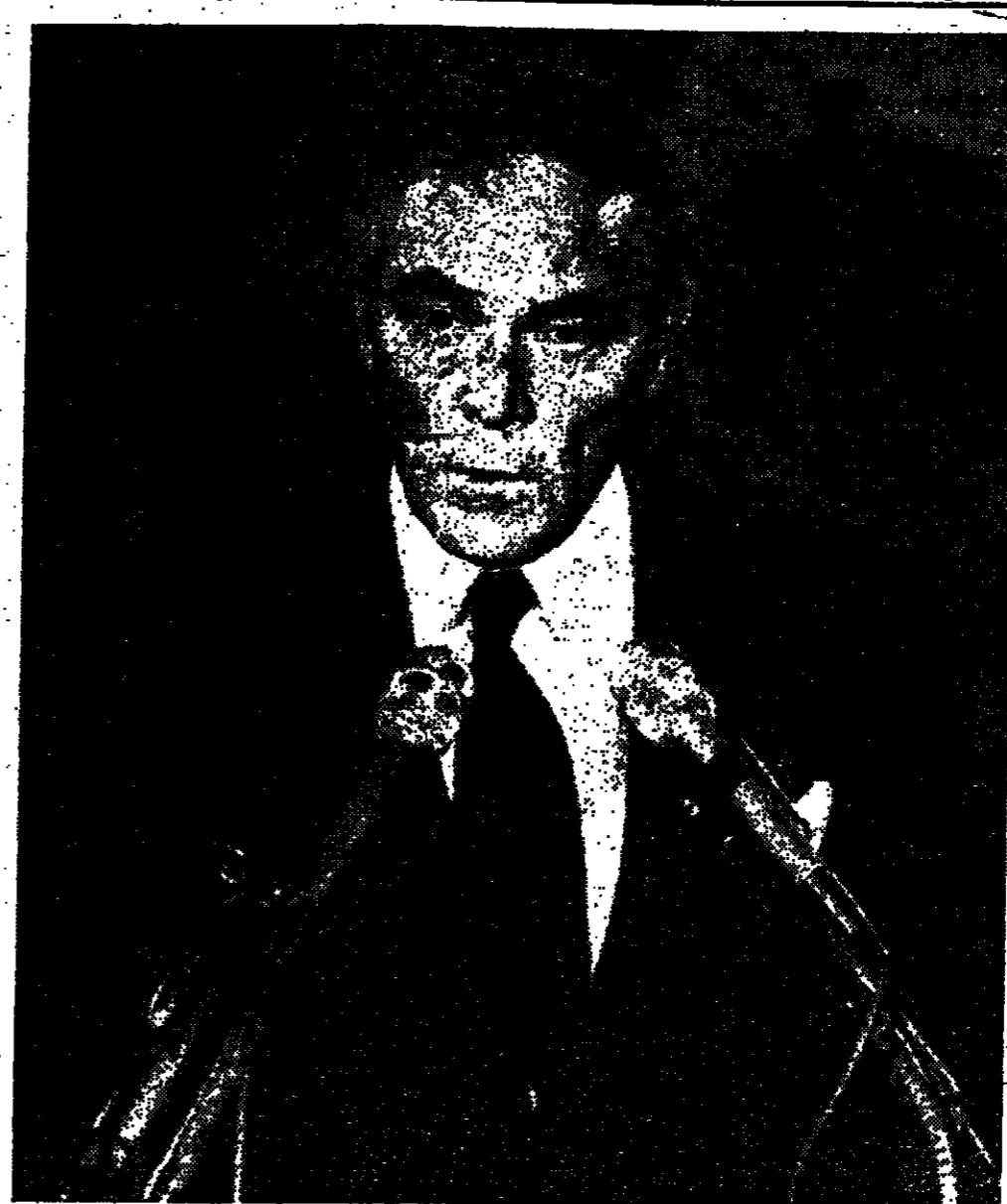
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Mr Haig: "Aggression must not succeed."

Costa Méndez refuses to concede sovereignty

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York, April 30

Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the Argentine Foreign Minister, today said his Government was ready to continue to take part in efforts aimed at a peaceful resolution of the Falkland Islands conflict, but that the issue of Argentine sovereignty over the islands, the main sticking point for both sides, was not negotiable.

The Argentine Government had not rejected the latest proposals put forward by Mr Haig. "We have made observations, but that does not mean that we have rejected the plan."

There had been speculation that Argentina, with the American shift toward Britain, would look towards the United Nations to defuse the crisis, but Argentine sources said Señor Costa Méndez had not requested mediation from the Secretary General, at least for the time being.

He had earlier met the President of the Security Council, Mr Kamanda Wa Kamanda, but did not request a meeting of the council. The general feeling that the United Nations would not yet take on an active role in the crisis was underscored by plans for Señor Costa Méndez to fly to Buenos Aires later today.

■ Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, reacted with great scepticism to

the last weeks of negotiations it had been very difficult to know who one was dealing with on the Argentine side, whether General Galtieri, Señor Costa Méndez, or members of the Junta.

■ Madrid: Señor Pérez de Cuellar was quoted as saying he would not mediate in the crisis unless asked to by Britain and Argentina. (Reuters)

"I do not believe the Security Council will decide to entrust the Secretary with a negotiation. All this is very difficult without the parties' agreement."

Continued on back page, col 7

characterize the mission as a failure. "I do not see any problem in the intervention of Mr Haig and the United Nations towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict."

The Argentine Government had also been partially pleased at having led the move to introduce the new £67m scheme to help small dairy farmers which will not penalise larger producers. He was also pleased about progress in creating a new scheme to help dry up Europe's wine lake.

He had pointed out that the last weeks of negotiations it had been very difficult to know what weight to attach to it. They have been totally reluctant to withdraw. They have been building up their forces all the time... One does not know what validity to put on it. It seems to me that this step must have quite a lot of verification..."

Mr Pym added that during the negotiations it had been very difficult to know who one was dealing with on the Argentine side, whether General Galtieri, Señor Costa Méndez, or members of the Junta.

■ Madrid: Señor Pérez de Cuellar was quoted as saying he would not mediate in the crisis unless asked to by Britain and Argentina. (Reuters)

The telephone lines between Luxembourg and most of the European capitals had been buzzing all the previous evening, according

to the *Times*.

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Government and MSC may clash on youth scheme

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The Government is likely to risk direct conflict with the Manpower Services Commission and Mr David Young, its new chairman, by insisting that school-leavers who refuse a place on the new youth training scheme should be denied supplementary benefit.

Senior ministers are still extremely reluctant that benefit should be paid to those who do not take part in the £1,100m scheme, despite a unanimous recommendation by the commission to that effect.

The plan to withhold benefit from what the Government hopes will be a small minority of 16-year-olds when the scheme is fully operational at the end of 1983 was condemned as a form of "conscription" by the TUC and voluntary groups when it was disclosed in the Government's training White Paper at the end of last year.

The MSC is due to publish on Tuesday the report of a joint union and employer task group which was unanimously approved by the commission last week and which proposes significant changes to the scheme.

It argues that allowances to young people on the scheme should be increased to £28 from the planned level of £15 a week, and that the social security benefit should remain available for those who do not take part.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, is thought to favour the proposal to increase the allowance.

But while no formal decision has yet been taken by the Cabinet, Mr Tebbit and his senior colleagues are believed to be adamant that

those who decide not to take up new places on a scheme intended to guarantee every 16-year-old a year's basic industrial training cannot expect to be paid by the state.

Senior trade union leaders are delighted at what they see as their success in persuading both the Confederation of British Industry and the independent members of the commission to join forces with them in backing the task group report.

Mr Tebbit is likely to argue that the decision is one who is eligible for benefit, one for the Department of Health and Social Security.

Well before the White Paper, several ministers, including Mr James Prior, Mr Tebbit's predecessor, were already inclined to withhold social security from young people refusing places on a training programme.

The Government is cautious about the task group's recommendation that the scheme should be extended to cover all 16-year-olds in work as well as those without a job.

Although the Government is committed to an integrated training scheme in the long term some Ministers take the view that the huge task of organizing the scheme, which would provide 300,000 places by September 1983, needs to be completed before further expansion can be envisaged.

Print dispute

Dismissal notices went out last night to 168 machine minders at the Eric Bemrose Printing Works, Liverpool, over unofficial disruptive action in a pay dispute.



"Times" past and present: Keyboard operators at work (left) a Linotype and (right) a new visual display unit.

The Times bids farewell to old technology

By Alan Hamilton

This edition of *The Times* is a milestone on a road which, for this newspaper in the recent past, has been unduly beset with hardships, toils and snares. It is the last to be produced in any part by hot-metal composition, the last living relative of Johann Gutenberg's fifteenth-century brainchild, movable type.

From Monday the entire newspaper will be set by photocomposition and computer, a means known to all who work with it, whether or not they comprehend its mysteries, as New Technology. Its novelty, however, extends only to Fleet Street; elsewhere in the world it is a common and established way of producing print.

The Times must be circumspect in its claims. We are, to be exact, the first British broadsheet national newspaper to be set entirely by photocomposition. A similar process is already employed at the *Daily Mirror*.

But the *Mirror* is a paper of print on paper. Its advan-

tages are chiefly economic; and pictures. *The Times* was once the work of 375 men in the composing areas of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. It will become 375 individual characters of type, and to set such a weight of words each night, mostly within the tight confines of a late afternoon and early evening, is a task which hovers permanently and dangerously close to the impossible.

It has been a revolution by stealth, if only because such profound changes must by nature attract their share of mischievous, and a newspaper is a nakedly public place to make mistakes. The first editorial pages "went cold" on March 16, 1981, and the last — the front and the back — on March 29 this year, leaving only the classified advertisements set in metal.

They appear by that means for the last time today. To sell the benefits of new technology to the reader is difficult, for he is likely to notice only its failings, although he may observe a cleaner and crisper imprint of print on paper. Its advan-

tages are chiefly economic; what was once the work of 375 men in the composing areas of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* will become 375 individual characters of type, and to set such a weight of words each night, mostly within the tight confines of a late afternoon and early evening, is a task which hovers permanently and dangerously close to the impossible.

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"We thought we would be able to gain our expertise on the *Times* supplements. But then, with the change of ownership, we had to go directly to converting the woodcut, and *The Times* has been in the forefront of them all."

Training printers to new

skills has been like asking the master masons who built Gothic cathedrals suddenly to work in concrete. The heat and noise of hot metal composing machines has given way to cool, clear computer keyboards in carpeted rooms. The juggling of metal in a steel frame to make a page has been replaced by the cutting and pasting of paper on a drawing board.

But it could not have been undertaken at a worse time. Mr George Vowles, head printer of *The Times*, said:

"We bought it in at a time of recession, with three million people already unemployed. We did it while the ownership of the newspaper was changing, and while the paper itself was being radically altered."

Photocomposition is the third great revolution to upset the printing craft since Gutenberg overtook the woodcut, and *The Times* has been in the forefront of them all.

In 1814 John Walter installed at *The Times* the first steam printing press, four times faster than his competitors' hand presses.

He so fell out with his operatives that *The Times* remained a non-union shop for a century. In 1872 the newspaper was the first national daily to install a mechanical typesetting machine, which set type twice as fast as a man picking it letter by letter from a case.

Not until 1890 did any other London daily risk such progress.

It is the Linotype, the successor to that first typesetting machine, which has been made redundant at *The Times*, and will become obsolete at *The Sunday Times* when that newspaper, too, is converted.

Science report

Alligator males prefer it hot

By the Staff of "Nature"

Although for most species being male or female is determined genetically at fertilization, the sex of alligator offspring is not fixed until about two weeks after fertilization and the outcome is determined by the temperature of the egg during that period.

That is the conclusion of laboratory and field studies carried out by Dr Mark Ferguson from Queen's University, Belfast, and Dr Ted Joannen of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Grand Chenier, Louisiana. They first demonstrated experimentally that eggs kept at 30°C or below all hatched in females whereas those kept at 24°C or above all hatched into males. Between those two temperatures varying proportions of males and females hatched.

To see what bearing those dramatic results had on the wild population, the temperatures of many nests throughout the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge were carefully measured. Unlike birds, which carefully incubate their eggs to keep them at a constant temperature, alligators make large untidy nests of rotting vegetation which are abandoned after egg laying.

Dr Ferguson and Dr Joannen found that in nests at dry sites a temperature of about 35°C was maintained and all the hatchlings were males. In contrast, the temperature in the more numerous nests in very wet sites throughout the marsh was around 30°C and eggs from these nests produced only female hatchlings.

To get an idea of the effects of temperature throughout the whole population of the refuge, the sex of 8,000 offspring from all types of nest, were recorded for four years. Overall five females emerged for every male, a ratio later compensated for by the fact that adult males mate with several females in any breeding season.

Previous studies, largely in the laboratory, have shown that temperature determines sex in some other reptiles. Dr Ferguson and Dr Joannen speculate that dinosaurs were another group of reptiles with temperature-controlled sex. If so, that may have been an important element in their downfall.

The small increases in temperature thought to have occurred at the end of the Cretaceous period, when dinosaurs became extinct, may have had a profound and ultimately disastrous effect on the ratio between males and females.

Nature (vol 296, p 850), April 29, 1982.

New Sunday paper set to go

By a Staff Reporter

Britain's first new national Sunday newspaper since the launch of the *Sunday Telegraph* 21 years ago goes on sale tomorrow. *The Mail On Sunday* will attempt to capture what its proprietor, Lord Rothermere, has described as the middle ground between the haughty papers and the naughty papers.

Associated Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Mail*, have not had a Sunday paper since the demise of their *Sunday Dispatch* in 1960. The new publication will help to spread the overheads of Associated's extensive Fleet Street printing plant, which have been borne entirely by the *Daily Mail* since its closure by Associated of the London Evening News in October 1980.

Mr Bernard Shrimley, a former editor of *The Sun* and the *Newspaper of the World* who is now editor of *The Mail On Sunday*, said yesterday that his paper would be quite distinct from the weekday *Daily Mail*, but would follow that newspaper's traditional political outlook of independent Conservatism.

Children trick man out of £500

Manchester, at the printing plant jointly owned by Associated and *The Guard-*

ian. Present arrangements allow for a maximum print run of about two million copies, and Mr Shrimley said yesterday that he expected half a million firm orders by the time the paper appeared.

Associated are hoping for an initial circulation of about 1.2 million, rising gradually to 1.6 million. Their principal target is the *Sunday Express*, now the only remaining middle-ground Sunday but with an aging readership and diminishing sales. The intention is that two-thirds of the new paper's readership should be in the ABC1 social categories.

Profits of Associated Newspapers, which are generated by oil and property as well as publishing, fell from £22.5m to £16.2m this year, the greatest drain being to the *Daily Mail*, which lost an estimated £3m through having to carry all the overheads of its printing plant.

Arts Council to organize public debates on policies

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council is to hold a series of public meetings around the country as part of its policy of greater openness about its activities and to encourage discussion of developments in the arts, it announced yesterday.

The meetings follow an initial pilot gathering in Newcastle upon Tyne last October, which attracted about 300 people. The first is to be held at Norwich on June 12, and recorded for BCB 4, and others will take place in Southampton (June 19), Leeds (July 17), Birmingham (September 4), Bristol (October 16), Nottingham, Oxford and Manchester.

It is hoped the meetings will give opportunities for arts organizations and the public to question and comment, particularly about Arts Council funded activities.

The council is also to discuss with the regional arts associations the possibility of devolving more powers from the centre to the regions.

At its meeting this week, the council approved a recommendation that local authorities should be encouraged to increase their direct funding of the arts.

Solicitors to be struck off

The Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal in London yesterday ordered the names of three solicitors, Mr Geoffrey Myerson, Mr Nicholas John Barton Sykes-Balls and Mr Michael Treanor, to be struck off and three others to be suspended from practice. All were given time to appeal.

Mr Myerson, of Cotfield House, Spratton, near Northampton was found to have used money held for clients for the purposes of other clients. His accounts had been "in a muddle" and a cheque had been dishonoured.

Mr Sykes-Balls, of Kingswear, south Devon, and Mr Treanor, of Sea Lane, Ferring, West Sussex, were both found guilty of using clients' money for their own purposes.

The suspended solicitors

Karpov leading

Anatoly Karpov was last night leading with 8½ points, in the 13th and final round of the Phillips and Drew King's chess tournament at County Hall, London. Four of the seven games had been finished and Karpov was matched against Boris Spassky, former world champion.

Some of the funded bodies have expressed reservations about being dealt with by a regional association rather than the central council, and the council has decided not to dispense with the condition that a client must consent to devolution. The recommendation to dispense with it was contained in the report of a Council working party, *Towards a New Relationship*.

The report also recommended that local authorities should be encouraged to increase their direct funding of the arts.

At its meeting this week, the council approved a recommendation that local authorities should be encouraged to increase their direct funding of the arts.

Pope and archbishop to 'enthrone' gospels in Canterbury Cathedral

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Canterbury Gospels, said to have been given to St Augustine by Pope Gregory in the sixth century, are to be "enthroned" on the Chair of St Augustine by Pope John Paul II and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, as the central symbolic act of the Pope's visit to Canterbury Cathedral next month.

Mr Philcox, found guilty of unfeeling conduct on five counts, was said to have a long history of sickness and was suspended from practice for three years. The order was suspended pending an appeal.

Mr Sandiford was ordered

No closed shop ballots likely for two years

By our Labour Correspondent

The Government appears certain to wait for two years after its new Employment Bill becomes law before enforcing the clause providing for workplace ballots on whether a closed shop should continue.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, denied yesterday that the widely reported speech by Dr James McFarlane, director general of the Engineering Employers Federation, criticizing the Government's fresh curbs on the closed shop reflected a "major difference" between the EEF and the Government.

Dr McFarlane told a Financial Times industrial relations conference that in general he had no enthusiasm for the 1982 Employment Bill's proposals for reviewing the closed shops" and added that the Government should defer until after the next general election the provision for periodic reviews of existing closed shops.

At the same conference yesterday, Mr Tebbit went out of his way to point out

that he had already made it plain that he was minded to give one or two years after Royal Assent for proper preparation for ballots before I brought it into force".

Mr Tebbit added: "The headline about that should have been Small Disagreement with the EEF. Mr Tebbit claimed yesterday was over the federation's argument that employers should be legally empowered to lay off their employees in the event of industrial action by others.

Mrs Shirley Williams, SDP

Speaker of the House of Commons, told the conference that her party had yesterday put down amendments to the Employment Bill seeking individual secret ballots for national union officers.

Speaking at the National Association of Family Planning Doctors' annual meeting in London, Mr Kennedy said the over-riding consideration with new techniques which affect fertility must be the interests of the child.

Since many potential clients are from the world's poorest nations, it is hoped that much of the finance will come from agencies such as the World Bank, the Asian, African and Inter-American Development Banks and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Tests on embryos created by *in vitro* fertilization, the test-tube baby technique, should also be banned where they are created with the potential for human life, only for the purposes of testing.

Mr Kennedy also expressed reservations about the frozen storage of human embryos created by the test-tube baby technique. Storage might damage the embryos, he said.

Test-tube baby research questioned

By Nicholas Timmins

Some forms of research using the test-tube baby technique and some of the uses to which it could be put should be banned, Mr Ian Kennedy, reader in law at King's College London and the 1980 Reith lecturer, said yesterday.

A standing Government-appointed committee should be set up to examine new techniques made possible by medical science so that ethical issues could be tackled before we are overtaken by events", he said.

Speaking at the National Association of Family Planning Doctors' annual meeting in London, Mr Kennedy said the over-riding consideration with new techniques which affect fertility must be the interests of the child; adoption was

an alternative to test-tube babies.

Overseas selling prices Sch. 12: Britain £1.00; Canada \$1.00; Australia £1.20; New Zealand £1.00; France Fr. 100; Germany DM. 100; Italy L. 100; Spain Pts. 100; Sweden Kr. 7.00; Holland G. 1.25; Israel N. 1.50; Italy L. 100; Jordan LD. 100; Kuwait KD. 1.00; Lebanon L. 1.00; Libya M. 1.00; Morocco Dir. 7; Norway Kr. 10; Oman R. 1.00; Saudi Arabia S. 1.00; Singapore S. 1.00; Turkey L. 1.00; Yugoslavia D. 50.

Science report
Alligator males prefer it hot

Breakaway buoys to be banned

Metal buoys which are a hazard to ships and smaller boats when they break adrift from oil rigs in the North Sea are to be banned, the Department of Energy has announced. Some of the big steel canister buoys occasionally wash ashore on Shetland beaches. (Jonathan Wills writes)

The breakaway buoys drifting at sea are a hazard to North Sea fishermen and yacht skippers. Any small wooden vessel hitting one in the dark would have little chance of survival and they are difficult to detect by radar if there is a sea running.

The buoys are used to mark anchors on oil rigs and although the industry is getting better at recovering them, unmarked buoys are a problem for coastguards. The cost of recovery then has to be paid out of public funds.

Concern about the dangerous flotsam has led the Department of Energy to announce the ban on steel buoys for most purposes in the North Sea oilfields. As from May 1 next year, soft buoys will have to be used.

Prison officers sent for trial

Five prison officers facing charges of conspiracy to defraud were yesterday committed for trial by Liverpool magistrates. But another officer, Mr George Kinner, of Heathfield Road, Southport, was discharged.

The five are alleged to have overcharged prisoners in the canteen at Walton Prison, Liverpool, between April, 1979, and October 1980.

Mr Kinner, of Allway Road, Fazakerley,

Patrick Flynn, of Oakham Drive, Fazakerley; Michael Kelly, of Mount Pleasant, Wallasey; Lonsdale, all of Southport Road, Bootle, all of Liverpool, and David Tyndale of Ashton Road, Formby, Merseyside.

Court order

Anthony William Bradford-Sackey, a student aged 17, of Oak Tree Close, Leeds, was ordered to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure at Leeds Crown Court yesterday for the murder of Mrs Mallika Dheerasinghe, aged 29, a cleaner at his former school.

Coach fined

Raymond Bunkell, aged 32, of Kempson Drive, Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk, the coach of Colchester United Football Club, was fined £200 by Hereford magistrates yesterday after pleading guilty to using insulting words and behaviour to Hereford United's officials during a match in March.

Army wife killed

Police launched a murder hunt yesterday after an army corporal's wife was found murdered. Mrs Susan Neil, aged 22, had been beaten and strangled when her husband found her in her bed at army married quarters in Willems Park, Aldershot, Hampshire.

Aid warning

Lord Justice Ormrod criticized the legal aid authorities in the Court of Appeal yesterday for partly financing intractable disputes over children used as "footballs" between problem families and local authorities.

New on the air

Radio Cambridgeshire, the BBC's twenty-third local radio station, goes on the air today for 42 hours a week covering the county from studios in Cambridge and Peterborough.

Graves dispute

Funerals and cremations in Liverpool will be halted from next Tuesday if 140 grave-diggers carry out their threat to strike in protest at city council plans to cut the wages bill by £50,000.

Where Ratepayers threaten the Alliance

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

LOCAL ELECTIONS

unashamedly local. We invented community politics here 30 or 40 years ago."

The issues are the M25 and its slip roads; local playing fields; sewerage and the apparent concentration of the present Conservative administration on the interests of Romford, where Ratepayers are nothing if not suspicious of council spending.

The association, which links several residents and community organizations in the wards, has 6,500 members united by a monthly newsletter. Mr Ronald Ower, a candidate in the Cramond ward and like many Havering residents a daily commuter into the centre of London, said Ratepayers' candidates have a large personal following.

He and his colleagues are resolutely anti-party. "In local affairs residents know most issues are non-political. Therefore they seek constructive discussion on the merits of each case, value for money and constant attention to the needs of each ward, in order to keep the environment pleasant and services good."

Havering is a prosperous borough; the estate agent's window by Upminster station has little to offer below £40,000. It is the area to which "rising East Enders" have moved, and where better-off manual workers from Fords of Dagenham have turned their homes. Even Mr Ronald Warrington, the long-time Labour leader on the council (Labour has 10 seats), allows "the rather conservative characteristics of the borough as a whole."

But his party has plenty of issues and a solid core of support on such council estates as the gigantic development at Harold's Hill. Labour protests that younger people in the borough cannot set up home because the Conservative council has been selling off too many houses and not building new homes.

Labour hopes to gain votes over the recent doubling of bus and Tube fares and even Mr Jack Moultrie, the Conservative leader, acknowledges that commuters face "astronomical" prices for their daily journeys. A tyist travelling into London could face a bill of £10 to £15 a week.

Havering is entirely new territory for the Alliance. Party is "almost Commun-



Inquest on fire victims told of wiring

Three elderly widows died in a fire at a Lancashire nursing home which, although registered for 12 residents, had 23 living there at the time. An inquest was told yesterday.

Experts found that the wrong wire had been used in the electrical system. The blaze was caused by repeated arcing and mechanical damage in the lighting circuit.

Mrs Mary Burns, a state registered nurse, said she was proprietor with her husband of the Northwood Nursing Home, in Blackburn, where Mrs Ada Barnes, aged 86, Mrs Margaret Foot, aged 93, and Mrs Charlotte Boerstad, aged 76, died on November 9 last year.

Mrs Burns told Mr George Graham, the coroner, that she had informed the area's social services department about the extra residents by telephone, although not by letter, whereupon an official had visited the home.

Mrs Mary Granger, an assistant at the home at the time, said when the fire alarm sounded, she tried four times to dial the fire brigade but could not get through. She called Miss Lynda Carterall, the matron on an internal line.

Miss Carterall said she helped to supervise the removal of residents to the ground floor. "There was a lot of shouting and screaming," she said.

She and others tried to get into the room where the fire had started but were driven back by smoke.

Mr Roy Burns said the eight-bedroomed building was completely rewired when he and his wife took it over in 1978. There were fire detectors in every room and fire alarms, although they were not directly linked to the first station.

Mr Joseph Wilson, the electrician who rewired the home, said he did not think there were faults in his work.

But Mr Herbert Bamford, a forensic scientist, said copper wire had been used incorrectly.

Supt Frank Taylor said no police action would be taken against anyone in connection with the deaths, although proceedings were being considered by Lancashire County Council in respect of the licence.

The coroner, recording verdicts of misadventure, said: "Three old ladies were kept in an attic room. To all intents and purposes they were shut away from the world, and bedfast."

Lords will take on 'sus' law cases

By Frances Gibb

The Metropolitan Police have won leave to appeal to the House of Lords over a High Court ruling that prosecutions they brought under section four of the now defunct "sus" law, or section four of the Vagrancy Act, 1824, are illegal.

The police sought leave to appeal to the House of Lords in order, they said, to clarify the law, but were refused. They were then able to seek leave directly from the House of Lords itself, and that has been granted.

In the meantime Mr Simeon remains on unconditional bail, his case adjourned, even though the police had said they would offer no evidence in the outstanding cases.

Mr Simeon's lawyer, Mr Neville Kesselman, said he was continuing with proceedings for the committal of Mr Crowther for contempt of court. Mr Crowther declined to dismiss the case after the High Court ruling and instead agreed to adjourn it at the request of the lawyers for the Metropolitan Police pending the Lords appeal.

Mr Kesselman said that if the police were not going to prosecute it was wrong to use his client as a device for clarifying the law.

Twelve tomes will bind together Ulster law

From Craig Seton, Belfast

cover the period from 1921 to 1963. The new works will not include the text of acts passed by the United Kingdom Parliament after 1920.

The second edition will bring together nearly 1,500 individual items of legislation up to March 1981. The full text is made available on magnetic tape in the first step towards an electronic data base for law in Northern Ireland.

Yesterday, the first three volumes of the second edition of *Statutes revised, Northern Ireland* was presented to Lord Lowry, the province's Lord Chief Justice, by Lord Gowrie, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland office.

The 12 volumes will replace the first edition published more than 25 years ago. The new work is costing £500,000 to produce and will cost £750 to buy. It will cover all Acts of Parliament of England, Ireland, Great Britain and the United Kingdom passed before 1921 affecting Northern Ireland; acts of the former Stormont Parliament in the province and measures of the ill-fated Northern Ireland Assembly; and scores of Orders in Council in the House of Commons under direct rule.

The first three volumes of the *Statutes Revised, Northern Ireland, Second Edition*, (Stationery Office £750).



Cricket and Money. Mike Brearley takes a stance.

The Empire crumbled. Wars came and went. Men walked on the moon, and the world turned and changed.

But in one field at least, civilisation was upheld.

Cricket was cricket.

Until Mr Packer arrived and turned it into a circus.

Or so the story goes...

It's true that we've seen some pretty bad behaviour in the last few years. Batsmen kicking bowlers, umpires being deliberately knocked over - and far, far worse.

But we almost went to war with the Aussies over the 'bodyline controversy'. Fifty years ago.

And dodging the firecrackers in Karachi and the beer cans in Sydney has never exactly been a picnic.

Has money destroyed cricket? Has it deviated the players' motives?

There are no easy answers.

But Mike Brearley came up with some fascinating conclusions when we commissioned him to write an exclusive article as a run-in to the new season.

You'll find him in our Sports pages tomorrow. In amongst the News, Reviews, Business, the Arts and everything else that makes the Sunday Times compulsive reading for some 4 million people every week.

Mike Brearley's only human. Try as he might - and he certainly does - he can't be expected to provide a totally objective opinion.

But you can be sure there's one thing he always observes.

Fair play.

Catch him this Sunday.

FALKLANDS CRISIS

Americans may help British with equipment

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

British defence chiefs are expected to confer with the Americans this weekend over possible transatlantic help for the Falklands task force.

So far Britain has drawn heavily, though covertly, on United States intelligence services and on a variety of United States facilities at Ascension Island — the halfway supply base for ships steaming south.

Now the Ministry of Defence might even consider borrowing American equipment to supplement British stocks which were not built up with the present crisis in mind. The United States Marine Corps, for instance, has over 100 Harrier vertical take-off aircraft which could be "loaned" in an emergency, assuming the marines can part with some.

These Harriers, like those in service with the RAF, are not fitted out for the air defence role practised by Sea Harriers on the task force's two aircraft carriers. But like a number of RAF aircraft which are now on their way to the South Atlantic, they could be adapted.

Hercules C130 transport aircraft are among other items of equipment common to both countries — and so are a number of other weapons

Task force poised

All quiet in the MEZ, ministry reports

By Our Defence Correspondent

The military situation remained uncertain and the atmosphere tense last night after Britain and Argentina imposed mutually exclusive zones around the Falkland Islands and threatened each other's ships and aircraft which intruded.

Some Argentine warships which have been patrolling their country's long coastline for the past two weeks were said to have moved to a position off Rio Grande, close to the outer limits of the 200-mile zone.

The Ministry of Defence, whose own task force is now presumed to be inside the zone, reported however, no breaches of it by either Argentine warships or aircraft.

Britain for its part would seem to have refrained from bombing the 4,000-feet runway at Port Stanley — one of the early options open to the Government in its policy of sealing off the Argentine garrison.

In South Georgia, the white ensign was lowered to half-mast for the funeral of the Argentine prisoner who died in what the ministry will still describe only as a "serious incident" last Monday.

Argentine sources have named him as Chief Petty Officer Felix Oscar Artuso and there are reports that he was shot. But the ministry, while confirming that his name was Artuso, are awaiting the results of a board of inquiry before giving further details. Other Argentine prisoners are among those giving evidence to the inquiry.

He was buried with full military honours at the ceremony in the tiny cemetery at Grytviken. The distance and the circumstances had prevented any

How Haig announced backing for Britain

Washington, April 30. — The following is the text of the statement by Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State:

"Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, the South Atlantic crisis is about to enter a new and dangerous phase in which large-scale military action is likely. I would like to bring you up to date.

"We have made a determined effort to restore peace through implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 502. That resolution calls for an end to hostility, the withdrawal of Argentine forces from the islands and a diplomatic settlement."

"The United States made this extraordinary effort because the stakes in human lives and international order require it.

"From the outset, the

United States has been guided by the basic principles of the rule of law and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The collapse of that principle could only bring chaos and suffering.

"We also made this effort since the crisis raised the vital issue of hemispheric solidarity at a time when the Community of nations seeks positions of influence on the mainland of the Americas and latent territorial disputes called for unity and the absolute defence of principle.

"We acted as well because the United States has the confidence of the parties. The United Kingdom is our closest ally, and Prime Minister Thatcher's Government looked to us to pursue a peaceful solution. We have also recently developed a better relationship with Argentina as part of our success in revitalising the community of American states. President Galtieri also requested our involvement.

"Under the direction of President Reagan, I participated in many days of intense discussions with the parties in search of a framework for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 502.

"Our initial aim was to clarify the positions of the parties and offer suggestions on how those positions might be reconciled.

"As the prospects for more intense hostilities arose, we put forth an American proposal. It represented our best estimate of what the two parties could reasonably be expected to accept and was based squarely on our own principles and concerns for the rule of law.

"We regard this as a fair and a sound proposal. It involves: a

cessation of hostility; withdrawal of both Argentine and British Forces; termination of sanctions; establishment of a United States-United Kingdom-Argentine interim authority to maintain the agreement; continuation of the traditional local administration with Argentine participation; procedures for encouraging cooperation in the development of the islands and a framework for negotiation on final settlement, taking into account the interests of both sides and the interests of the inhabitants.

"We had reason to hope that the United Kingdom would consider a settlement along the lines of our proposal. But Argentina informed us yesterday that it could not accept it.

"Argentina's position remains that it must receive an assurance now of eventual sovereignty or an immediate de facto rule in governing the islands which would lead to sovereignty.

"For its part, the British Government has continued to affirm the need to respect the views of the inhabitants in any settlement.

The United States has thus far refrained from adopting measures in response to the seizure of the islands that could have interfered with our ability to work with both sides in the search for peace.

The British Government has shown complete understanding for this position. Now, however, in light of Argentina's failure to accept a compromise, we must take steps to underscore that the United States cannot and will not condone the use of unlawful force to resolve disputes.

The President has therefore ordered the suspension of all military exports to Argentina, the withholding of certification of Argentina's eligibility for military sales, the suspension of new export-import bank credits and guarantees and the suspension of commodity credit corporation guarantees.

The President also directed that the United States will respond positively for requests for material support for British forces. There will, of course, be no direct United States military involvement. American policy will continue to be guided by our concern for the rule of law and our desire to facilitate an early and fair settlement.

The United States remains ready to assist the parties in finding that settlement. A strictly military outcome cannot endure over time. In the end there will have to be a negotiated outcome acceptable to the interested parties.

Otherwise, we will all face unending hostility and insecurity in the South Atlantic.

Argentine sources said it would "significantly increase" Argentina's capacity to track British submarines operating in the South Atlantic.

"We are negotiating these planes with Argentina. That is all I am allowed to say," Senhor Paulo Lax, spokesman for the government-run Embraer company, which builds the EMB111 twin-engine maritime patrol aircraft.

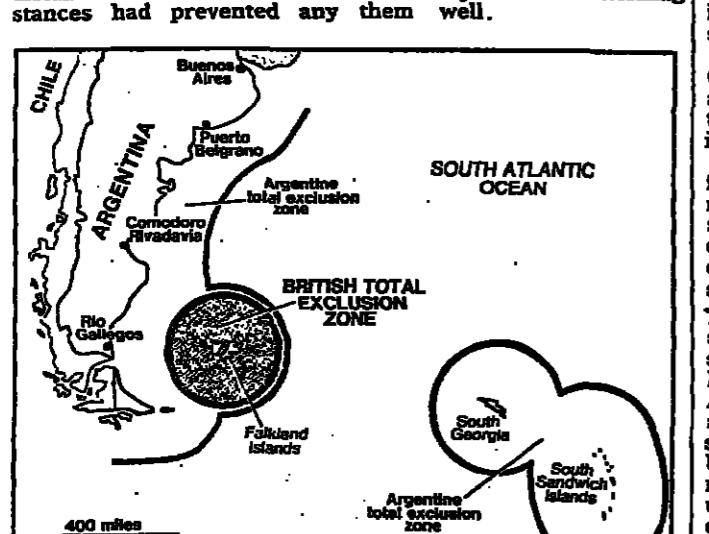
The Brazilian Air Force confirmed the negotiations and said that there could be more news this afternoon.

The EMB111 is a military version of the 18-seat civilian Bandeirante aircraft.

developed by Brazil. In its maritime patrol version it has a range of up to 7,000 miles and can carry advanced radar and electronic submarine detection equipment, together with a light load of missiles and bombs.

Brazilian military analysts said it would "significantly increase" Argentina's capacity to track British submarines operating in the South Atlantic.

An Air Force spokesman said it was virtually certain that EMB111 aircraft sold to Argentina would be new ones, but another spokesman said it was not impossible that the Brazilian Air Force would take some of the 12 aircraft it now has and make them available to Argentina on a rush basis. — UPI.



Junta to buy Brazilian anti-submarine planes

Sao Paulo, April 30 — Brazil said today that it was negotiating the sale of maritime patrol and submarine tracker aircraft to Argentina, which would significantly increase its capacity to trace British submarines operating in the South Atlantic.

"We are negotiating these planes with Argentina. That is all I am allowed to say," Senhor Paulo Lax, spokesman for the government-run Embraer company, which builds the EMB111 twin-engine maritime patrol aircraft.

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Brazilian military analysts

Four rules
for press
to censor
itself

Iranians cross Karun in second offensive

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, April 30

Iran appears to have followed up its victories over the Iraqi Army in Khusneat with advances on the southern front across the Karun River near Abadan.

The Iranian military command claimed this afternoon that its troops had crossed the Karun, captured an important highway — presumably the main Abadan-Ahava road — and taken more than 1,000 Iraqi prisoners.

The Iranian attack came as no surprise. Ever since they recaptured several hundred square miles of their own territory from the Iraqis west of Dezful on the central sector of the war front, the Iranians have boasted that they would soon mount a second offensive to retake their ruined port of Khorramshahr, which fell to the Iraqis 18 months ago.

The Iraqis — true to the contradictory claims for which the Gulf War has become famous — acknowledged that the attack had occurred, but insisted that their own forces had counter-



Lebanon land mine threatens ceasefire

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, April 30

Kuwait, April 30 — Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister and President of the EEC Council of Ministers, arrived in Kuwait today as part of Europe's effort to help to achieve peace in the Middle East after Israel's withdrawal from Sinai.

He said he was carrying no proposals but wanted to evaluate the situation and report to the EEC Council. "The Council will then see whether the time is suitable to put forth fresh proposals," he said.

No talks are scheduled for today, but tomorrow Mr Tindemans will meet Shaikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, Shaikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah, the Prime Minister, and Shaikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, the Foreign Minister.

Foreign Ministry officials said the talks would centre on the Middle East crisis, the Palestinian issue and the Israeli threat to Lebanon.

They would also discuss possible resumption of Arab-European dialogue, suspended nearly a year ago mainly because of Europe's insistence that the question of higher oil prices should also be on the agenda, and Arab opposition to European participation in the multinational peace-keeping force in Sinai.

The officials said Kuwaiti leaders would reemphasize their position that Europe should play a leading role independent of the United States in solving the Middle East conflict, based on total Israel withdrawal and the setting up of an independent Palestinian state.

Kuwait has backed a peace plan proposed by Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia last August. The plan, which implicitly recognises Israel, has been regarded as an alternative to the Camp David agreements, which has been condemned by most Arabs.

There have been a number of EEC fact-finding visits to the Middle East since Europe offered its help in achieving peace at a conference in Venice in June, 1980.

Mr Tindemans is due to fly to Saudi Arabia tomorrow evening for a one-day visit before going to Egypt and Israel.

He said that a meeting with Mr Yassir Arafat was not included in the agenda. Mr Arafat was in Saudi Arabia yesterday and met King Khalid. — Reuter.

Pakistan bars EEC mission headed by Jew

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad, April 29

Pakistan today rejected a protest by the Belgian Ambassador on behalf of the EEC against Pakistan's refusal to receive a European parliamentary delegation headed by M Gérard Israel, a French MEP. The delegation was to have visited Afghan refugee camps.

An official statement said Pakistan had informed the European Parliament on March 18 that the inclusion of M Israel would be misunderstood. He was described as the Deputy General Secretary of the Universal Israelite Alliance.

"Because of the strong feelings of the people of Pakistan and of the Afghan refugees on the question of Israel and anything connected with it, the inclusion of M Gerard Israel in the delegation was not desirable," the statement continued.

"Under the circumstances, the visit of the European parliamentary delegation as it was constituted was still less desirable. Pakistan would urge that a sense of political realism should inform the reaction of the European Parliament and that of the Council of Ministers of the EEC."



Space firsts: Two astronauts, Sally Ride and Guion Bluford, will make history next year when she becomes the first woman in space on Shuttle 7 and he becomes the first black in space on Shuttle 8.

Jobs scheme rejected

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn, April 30

The Christian Democratic-dominated Bundestag, the upper house of Parliament, today rejected the Government's job-creation Bill, opening the way for fresh conflict between the co-alition parties about how to finance it.

The scheme, which was agreed on with great difficulty by the ruling Social Democrats and Free Democrats, failed because the Christian Democrats objected to bringing forward an in-

crease in value-added tax to finance subsidies for job-creating investments by industry.

The Government will now call in the Parliamentary Arbitration Committee to seek a compromise.

The Social Democratic party congress last week called for tax increases to finance the fight against unemployment, while the Free Democrats have already given him a place

THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 1 1982



Respite from terror: Gunmen holding 27 hostages on board an airliner at Tegucigalpa allowed the pilot's three children to visit him, and modified their demands three times, but were unable to persuade the Honduras Government to promise any more than to fly them out of the country.

Scourge of Mafia shot dead in Sicily

From John Earle, Rome, April 30

Sigmar Pio La Torre, the secretary of the Communist Party in Sicily and member of the Italian Parliament, was assassinated in a Mafia-style killing today as he drove to the local party headquarters in the centre of Palermo. His driver, Signor Rosario de Salvo, was also shot dead.

Witnesses said their car was forced to stop by a large motor cycle, then another car with four men drew alongside and opened fire. Signor La Salvo had time to fire four shots before he died and Signor La Torre were killed at point blank range.

The motor cycle was abandoned at the spot, while the gunmen's car was later found burnt out a few hundred yards away.

Signor La Torre, aged 55, was a prominent member of a parliament if inquiry into the Mafia. His death brought immediate statements of condemnation from President Sandro Pertini and the leaders of all political parties.

Signor Giovanni Spadolini, the Prime Minister, summoned for consultations General Carlo Alberto della Chiesa, the new Prefect of Palermo, who was attending an Army ceremony near Milan.

General della Chiesa, who has played a leading role in combating left-wing terrorism in the north, is to take up his new post at the weekend with a brief from the Government to clamp down on the Mafia and its drug traffic with the United States.

Though Palermo has been relatively quiet in the past year — the city authorities say there were only 101 killings in 1981, compared to more than one a day in Naples — the murder of Signor La Torre is the latest in a long series of such crimes.

The most prominent victim was Signor Piersanti Mattarella, the Christian Democrat president of the Regional Council, who died in January 1980. Other presumed Mafia victims in the last three years include the Palermo chief public prosecutor, the chief of the police flying squad, the provincial secretary of the Christian Democrats, and a captain of the Carabinieri investigating drug links.

Even so, Signor La Torre was the first serving member of the Italian Parliament to be assassinated since Signor Aldo Moro, the Christian Democrat leader, was murdered in 1978 by a Red Brigades group whose alleged members are now standing trial.

A official statement cited

Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime minister, gave a warning in a series of interviews recorded to coincide with the thirty fourth anniversary of Israeli independence on Wednesday, that the ceasefire would only last if the Palestinians halted all attacks on Israeli targets. "If the terrorists keep the peace, so will Israel," he said.

Tonight, diplomats were braced for possible Israeli retaliation for the latest land mine ambush, though there was uncertainty as to its form or timing. The most common view was that it had further strengthened the

Election in El Salvador

Independent chosen as new President

San Salvador, April 30 — Senor Alvaro Magaña, aged 57, a banker, has been chosen by the Constituent Assembly as El Salvador's new president. He is a political independent and succeeds Senor José Napoleón Duarte, a Christian Democrat. He will be sworn in on Sunday.

Senor Magaña has for the past 17 years headed the Mortgage Bank, El Salvador's biggest financial institution and the only bank with state participation before all banks were nationalized in 1980. The United States embassy here regards him as a capable administrator.

His political past makes it difficult to predict his attitude to the American-backed agrarian reforms instituted two years ago.

In his power will be limited by the Constituent Assembly, which has voted extraordinary powers, including those of writing a constitution, making legislation and vetoing the president's appointments. — Reuter.

One of two Arena deputies who abstained from the voting was Major Roberto d'Aubisson, the party leader, who was elected Assembly President last week by 36 right-wing deputies despite the opposition of the 24 Christian Democrats.

The assembly also elected three vice-presidents, rep-

Kaunda's summit described as useful

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, April 30

More than three hours of talks today between Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, and President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia were described in a joint statement as "useful."

Senor Magaña has for the past 17 years headed the Mortgage Bank, El Salvador's biggest financial institution and the only bank with state participation before all banks were nationalized in 1980. The United States embassy here regards him as a capable administrator.

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After the meeting, held in a caravan in no man's land straddling the border between South Africa and Botswana, said the two men had "a frank exchange of views on the situation in Southern Africa in their search for a peaceful solution to the problems of the area. The issues covered were those of Namibia and South Africa. Both leaders found the exchange useful."

After the meeting, President Kaunda and his entourage left immediately for Gabarone, the Botswana capital, where their aircraft was waiting to fly them back to Lusaka. Mr Botha boarded a helicopter with Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, on the first leg of their journey back to Cape Town.

The outcome of the meeting and whether, in fact, anything useful has come from it will be reported to the full South African Cabinet on Tuesday.

It was Mr Botha's first meeting to face with a leader of a black African state since he became Prime Minister three years ago. The meeting was at President Kaunda's instigation.

Dr Kaunda met Mr Botha's predecessor, Mr John Vorster, in a railway carriage straddling the Victoria Falls Bridge on the Rhodesian-Zambian border in 1975 in an effort to end that war.

When Dr Kaunda announced his invitation to Mr Botha for talks, he said he urgently wanted to discuss the war in South-West Africa (Namibia) and the "explosive" situation in South Africa.

On Thursday night, Mr Botha addressed a political meeting in Pietersburg in northern Transvaal. It is a stronghold of his right wing adversary, Dr Andries Treurnicht, who has formed a breakaway party of 17 National Party MPs opposed to limited power sharing with mixed-race Coloureds and Asians.

He emphasized that he regarded the talks with President Kaunda as serious although he did not want to preempt its possible outcome.

Graves plea

Bonn. — The West German Parliament called on the Government to start talks with Moscow on ending German war graves in the Soviet Union. The Bundestag voted unanimously to seek negotiations to locate and tend the graves of about 2.2 million German soldiers scattered in 118,000 places in the Soviet Union.

Students riot

Lahore. — A story in a Lahore newspaper alleging a student involvement in a hijacking attempt has led to 175 arrests at Lahore University. Police broke up a fierce protest by Muslim students against the previous jailing of more than 100 of their number accused of ransacking the newspaper offices.

Parole lost

Los Angeles. — Gregory Powell, a subject of the best-selling book *The Onion Field*, has lost his right to parole in June after serving 19 years in prison for killing a policeman. Psychiatric reports said that he would be an undue risk to the public.

Strikes at bases

Stuttgart. — More than 4,500 German civilian employees staged wildcat strikes at Nato bases in West Germany to back up demands for higher wages.

Nuclear vote

Wellington. — Mr Robert Muldoon's government has defeated by one vote a Bill to ban all nuclear weapons from New Zealand and its territorial waters.

Salonica bomb

Salonica. — A time bomb exploded outside the American Express office in central Salonica, causing extensive damage but no casualties.

Correction

It was wrongly stated in *The Times* yesterday that Mr Andreas Mavrommatis had been appointed chief negotiator for Greece in the intercommunal talks on Cyprus and was Director General of the Cyprus Foreign Ministry and will be negotiating on behalf of the Greek Cypriot community.

War bodies found after 38 years

Port Moresby — A United States Liberator bomber with 19 skeletons inside has been found 38 years after it crashed in a mountainous jungle during the Second World War.

Colonel David Rosenberg, from the Army central identification laboratory at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, said the B24 bomber had been discovered 45 miles north-east of Port Moresby on the thick slopes of Mount Thumba.

Wreckage found by local villagers had helped New Guinea investigators to the spot. Colonel Rosenberg said the skeletons would be flown to Honolulu for scientific tests. Investigators were still trying to locate the remains of three other personnel believed to have been on the fatal flight.

The bomber crashed soon after taking off from Port Moresby on March 22, 1944.

Polish airliner hijacked to West

Berlin. — A Polish airliner was hijacked by eight people to the Tempelhof airfield here yesterday, an American military spokesman said.

It was hijacked on a routine flight from Wroclaw to Warsaw. "There was a report of an injury to the sky marshal (security guard) and an ambulance is at the scene," the spokesman said.

Policeman killed in Uganda

Nairobi. — A Ugandan policeman was shot dead by unidentified gunmen at a roadblock near the town of Mansura north-west of the Ugandan capital.

He was the seventh policeman to be murdered by gunmen, believed to be anti-Government guerrillas during the past week. Five policemen died in an ambush last week.

New start for prostitutes

Strasbourg. — The European Commission is preparing to provide money to help prostitutes reintegrate into ordinary working life. In a written answer to Mme Yvette Fuillet, a French Socialist MEP, Mr Ivor Richard, the Social Affairs Commissioner, has promised that "in certain circumstances" social fund money will be made available for this purpose (Ian Murray writes).

Rats defeat drugs search

Norrkoping, Sweden. — Dogs searching for drugs on board a Pakistani cargo ship here panicked by hordes of 15-in long rats, some weighing more than 2lb.

They did not find any drugs.

Graves plea

Bonn. — The West German Parliament called on the Government to start talks with Moscow on ending German war graves in the Soviet Union. The Bundestag voted unanimously to seek negotiations to locate and tend the graves of about 2.2 million German soldiers scattered in 118,000 places in the Soviet Union.

Students riot

Lahore. — A story in a Lahore newspaper alleging a student involvement in a hijacking attempt has led to 175 arrests at Lahore University. Police broke up a fierce protest by Muslim students against the previous jailing of more than 100 of their number accused of ransacking the newspaper offices.

Parole lost

Los Angeles. — Gregory Powell, a subject of the best-selling book *The Onion Field*, has lost his right to parole in June after serving 19 years in prison for killing a policeman. Psychiatric reports said that he would be an undue risk to the public.

Strikes at bases

Stuttgart. — More than 4,500 German civilian employees staged wildcat strikes at Nato bases in West Germany to back up demands for higher wages.

Nuclear vote

Wellington. — Mr Robert Muldoon's government has defeated by one vote a Bill to ban all nuclear weapons from New Zealand and its territorial waters.

Salonica bomb

Salonica. — A time bomb exploded outside the American Express office in central Salonica, causing extensive damage but no casualties.

Correction

It was wrongly stated in *The Times*

New constitution in China may help Hongkong

From Richard Hughes, Hongkong, April 30

China's newly-drafted constitution could be a welcome guide to Hongkong's future when the existing lease expires in 1997. China-watchers in Hongkong point out that Article 30 in a chapter entitled "General Principles" in the proposed constitution authorizes the establishment of "special administrative regions" in China.

The political system to be adopted in these regions will be set up by law in accordance with the conditions existing there, the draft says.

This was the same proposal made by Marshal Ye Jianguo, the chairman of the National People's Congress, in a statement in September, urging reunification of Taiwan with the mainland.

In that statement, Marshal Ye argued that Taiwan could maintain its own socio-economic system and way of life and China would promise not to interfere with its internal affairs.

Diplomats in Hongkong said then that those terms could be the basis of a satisfactory settlement between China and Britain on Hongkong's future which would allow the colony to become a self-governing region and to maintain its own system of running the economy.

Hua Guofeng recovering in Peking hospital

Peking, April 30 — Former Chairman Hua Guofeng, has been taken to hospital here and is recuperating after receiving "meticulous treatment", the New China news agency reported today.

The agency did not say why he had been taken to hospital. It merely said that Mr Hua, who last year was demoted to number seven in the party hierarchy, would celebrate Labour Day with doctors and nurses in Hospital.

Mr Hua made his last public appearance on January 24 at a reception here marking the Chinese New Year.

He has made only rare appearances since he was replaced as party chairman by Mr Hu Yaobang, a protege of Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's effective leader, at the last party Central Committee meeting in June.

White party disbands in Zimbabwe

From Stephen Taylor
Harare (formerly Salisbury)
April 30

The breakaway white political party formed last year in an attempt to heal relations with the Zimbabwe government has been disbanded.

Mr Andre Holland, a former MP who resigned from Mr Ian Smith's Republican Front last year urging fellow whites to respond to the reconciliation offered by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, said the party had been unsuccessful because of white apathy.

The Democratic Party contested three by-elections, including Mr Holland's own former constituency, but was trounced by the RF on each occasion.

Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Opposition leader, faces prosecution under the country's Law and Order (Maintenance) Act for allegedly addressing an illegal political meeting.

He was issued with notice of prosecution yesterday alleging that he held a rally south of the city five months ago without first obtaining government approval.

Mr Nkomo is still under investigation over an alleged arms plot.

May Day bliss: only newly weds were allowed in Red Square yesterday as Moscow prepared for its annual parade.

PARLIAMENT April 30 1982

Access to official records

COMMONS

There are no immediate plans for discontinuing public access to the public records reading room in Chancery Lane, London. Sir Ian Percival, Solicitor General, announced in an adjournment debate in the Commons on the Government's response to the Wilson Committee report on public records.

He said that it had been demonstrated that it was physically feasible to site the Public Record Office on a single site at Kew instead of the present four different sites which were inefficient and uneconomic.

A feasibility study had said that in the long run it would be cheaper as well as obviously better to have the records at one site but that could only be done after substantial building work at a cost of £12m.

Expenditure of that order (he said) cannot be justified in the present economic climate and the proposal for the total concentration at Kew is therefore in abeyance.

It had, however, been agreed that the PRO could maintain its present staff at 400 without further reduction. Demand for the service continued to increase, but this announcement would

allow the PRO to plan ahead.

The matter was raised by Mr Christopher Rice-Leslie, the Welsh Labour chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Education and Science, who said that the committee would, he hoped, call more evidence on the issue. The preservation of the archival heritage was a sacred duty for any Government.

It was generally agreed that a full inquiry generally would be needed after the Falklands crisis was over.

It would be a scandal (he said) if, even now, files should be going missing to save the embarrassment of those politicians whom the inquiry might well find guilty of grievous political misjudgment.

Sleazy world of Soho sex films

Maximum penalties for the use of unlicensed sex shops and sex cinemas are to be increased to £10,000 under an amendment which the Government is to table in the House of Lords at the report stage of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill. Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State, Home Office, stated in the Commons:

He was speaking during the report stage of the Cinematograph Bill, sponsored by Mr Peter Lloyd (Fareham, C) which extends previous Cinematograph Acts of 1909 and 1952 to cover powers of enforcement and sets

out new provisions for offences and penalties. The Bill completed its report stage but on the motion for the third reading it was talked out and proceedings were adjourned.

Mr Lloyd moved a group of amendments, which were approved during the report stage, to increase from £1,000 to £10,000 the maximum penalty for showing films on premises which did not have the required cinematograph licence.

Mr Raison said he welcomed Mr Lloyd's desire to have the penalties in his Bill in line with the legislation at present before the House of Lords (which have been introduced in the Commons) and he supported the amendments Mr Lloyd had moved.

Mr Lloyd said that the penalties in the Bill must be an effective deterrent. Those who ran bogan clubs at which films were shown were in a lucrative business and unlikely to be deterred by a low fine.

Earlier during the report stage, Mr Lloyd moved a new clause, which was approved, containing powers for a constable to arrest someone he suspected had given a false address or name. The purpose was to cover the case where the front man at a sex cinema or sex shop was uncooperative. Often, he said, when police had to return to premises, the front man had disappeared and the whole operation was frustrated. Although unlikely to be used often, this new provision would close a loophole.

Mr Raison said the new clause strengthened the power of the

police in circumstances where an officer suspected an offence and where there was a failure on the part of someone to give his proper name and address.

Arrangements were being made to bring Mr Lloyd's Bill into effect on the same date as the provisions on sex cinemas in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill. The Government believed the Bill now being discussed provided the most satisfactory means of exercising control over commercial sex cinemas in Soho and elsewhere. It was directly designed to deal with this problem.

Under its provisions commercial sex cinemas would have to obtain a cinematograph licence. This would give cinema licences to control over what might be shown, which meant they would have discretion in deciding whether the cinema might operate as a sex cinema.

Mr Elton Griffiths said one of the least agreeable features of police work in the London area was to be required to act in the distasteful circumstances of the blue film world of Soho.

For a young police officer to be thrust in that disagreeable environment and expected to face of some fairly sleazy characters, some of whom had access to fairly sleazy legal advisers, was a difficult world in which to operate.

The Planning Inquiries (Attendance of Public) Bill, providing that all real evidence be given in public and that all documentation be open to inspection, passed its remaining stages.



Laos Communists broaden control

Bangkok, April 30. — The first Laotian Communist Party congress for 10 years ended today and diplomatic sources here said the party's central committee had been more than doubled in size.

But the country's leadership was unchanged and Mr Kaysone Phomvihane, the Prime Minister retained his post as secretary-general of the party, the sources said.

The congress, which opened on Tuesday in the Laos capital of Vientiane, expanded the 21-member central committee to 49 and increased the secretariat from six to nine, but the seven-member politburo was unchanged. There was tight security and several anti-government demonstrators were arrested.

The new central committee has a broader base than the last one, but there are still no members of ethnic groups who oppose the government in either the politburo or the secretariat, according to one diplomatic source.

A five year plan was approved for 1981 to 1985 to develop agriculture and forestry as a base for gradual industrial development. Laos,

Greek curb on Nato manoeuvres

From Mario Modiano
Athens, April 30

Greece announced today that it was cancelling its participation in the Nato exercise "Distant Drum 82", which begins on Monday, and has declared its national air space out of bounds to the other Nato forces taking part.

A communiqué from the Greek Defence Ministry invoked disagreements over questions of "command, control and flight safety procedures" to explain its decision to boycott the manoeuvres organized by Nato's South European Command, which last until May 15.

Greece, because of its dispute with Turkey since 1974 over rights and jurisdictions in the Aegean, has often withdrawn from Nato exercises whenever it has felt that arrangements could be prejudicial to its rights in Spain today.

Many of the protesters have refused to pay the same tax for some time, since they maintain it is a business tax pertaining to employees.

Police used rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the crowd. One policeman was stabbed, but not seriously.

In the courtroom, a grandson of the deceased owner of the property in question saved it from auction at the last minute by paying the 64,000 pesetas (£352) due in back taxes.

In Cala, in the southwestern province of Huelva, iron-ore miners resumed their sit-in in a mine after a workers' delegation failed to win a promise in a meeting with Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo; the Prime Minister, in Madrid, said the government would keep its year-old promise to build an ore-processing plant in the area.

Korea amnesty

Seoul. — The South Korean government announced the release of more than 1,000 prisoners, the second such amnesty in two months involving a total of nearly 4,000 people.

70 hurt in Spanish farm riot

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, April 30

A farmers' riot in northwestern Spain, in which about 70 persons were injured, and a threat by miners in the south-west to set off explosives at the mouth of the pit if anybody tries to stop their sit-in, characterized a climate of increasing social unrest in Spain today.

About 1,000 farmers, answering a call from the left-wing Galician nationalist union, Comisiones Obreras, gathered in front of a courthouse in Lugo yesterday to try to stop the first public auction in the region of the property of a farm family which had not paid its social security taxes.

Many of the protesters have refused to pay the same tax for some time, since they maintain it is a business tax pertaining to employees.

Police used rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the crowd. One policeman was stabbed, but not seriously.

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Coup defence invokes constitution

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, April 30

The lawyer defending Lieutenant-General Alfonso Tejero, both interested parties who were also accused.

The prosecution is demanding a 30 year prison term for General Tejero, the former deputy army chief.

Señor Ramon Hermosilla, in his summing up, said that General Tejero was in Parliament on the night of the coup, attempting to take a purely personal initiative in a confused situation.

He had been obliged to offer the "cunning formula" of heading a future government because Colonel Tejero would not agree simply to surrender control of the situation.

Colonel Tejero had flatly refused to negotiate.

Señor Hermosilla encountered difficulties from the other accused headed by General Milans when he tried to develop the case for General Tejero.

The case was adjourned to the end of a stormy election.

Coup stones ex-president

Domínguez: Army guards

firing into the air twice hustled the motorcade of Señor Joaquín Balaguer, the former Dominican President.

Señor Balaguer had been shot in the head during a campaign in San Francisco de Macorís for the presidential election on May 16 (AP report).

Police reported several people were hurt and several arrested in street clashes with partisan groups.

The former president and his car were unscathed, and no serious injuries were reported among his party, although one car's wind shield was smashed and its roof dented, and one Balaguer supporter said a rock had hit his head.

A spokesman said that he needed a job to provide for his family.

Major Oteo Saravia De Carvalho (above) the colourful leader of the revolution that ended Europe's longest dictatorship, had been pardoned after being dismissed in 1979 for his involvement in a leftist uprising.

Basque blast

San Sebastián: Suspected Basque guerrillas blew up an electricity substation, cutting power in several areas of the city. Power was restored after two hours.

Britain blamed

China repeated its call for a peaceful resolution of the Falklands Islands crisis but blamed Britain for increasing tension in the area by retaking South Georgia.

procedures laid down by the store was what should have happened, but having seen the defendant they could not be sure that it had occurred.

It was always available to the court, in similar circumstances, to request an adjournment in the magistrate's court proceedings so that they might call the maker of the statement to attend. In those circumstances the court might take the view that an adjournment should be allowed and that the costs thrown away should be paid by the defendant or his legal adviser.

MR JUSTICE STEPHEN BROWN said that the case illustrated that it was desirable to call witnesses who were central to a case.

Where evidence sought to be established under section 9 was essential the prosecution should give careful consideration as to whether they should call the witness, had been before the court. However, if that had happened and there had been no cross examination or challenge of the evidence and the defendant had accepted it as an exchange, it would have been marked as an addendum, and it was not.

The defendant did not give notice of objection and the

accordingly, it was open to the justices to decide that the

Poll may settle St Lucia feuding

From Jeremy Taylor
Port of Spain, April 30

General elections in the Caribbean island of St Lucia on Monday could put an end to nearly three years of political feuding and economic decline which have pitted four administrations since the island gained independence from Britain in February, 1979.

Three parties are contesting the election, each fielding candidates in all the island's 17 constituencies. The United Workers' Party (UWP) of Mr John Compton, the former Prime Minister, held power for 15 years before being defeated at the polls soon after independence.

Mr Compton, a lawyer, made St Lucia something of a showcase of pro-Western economic stability in the mid-seventies and is the man Washington would like to see returned to power.

The middle-of-the-road St Lucia Labour Party (SLP) defeated Mr Compton in July, 1979. It was split early in its administration by a leadership struggle that undermined its credibility and led to the fall of the prime minister, Mr Allan Louisier, last year and his successor, Mr Winston Cenac, last January, in the face of widespread popular pressure. It is led by Mr Peter Jose, a former Trade Minister.

Since January, the island has been run by an interim government led by Mr Michael Pilgrim, which includes representatives of the UWP and SLP and of business, labour and other organizations.

Mr Pilgrim is deputy leader of the Progressive Labour Party (PLP) of Mr George Odum, who broke away from the SLP last year as a result of the leadership feud, and is the other socialist contender. The PLP's statement of principles commits it to a government of "national unity" it wins.

At the last election in July, 1979, 59 per cent of the electorate voted and the SLP won 12 of the 17 seats in the House of Assembly, with 54.75 per cent of the votes. The UWP won the remaining five with 42.66 per cent. About 15,000 of the island's 115,000 people are eligible to vote.

The three parties have agreed to co-operate in an attempt to ensure a peaceful election.

Price of peace to Israel

Tel Aviv. — The decision to raise the Sinai town of Yamit, rather than sell it to Egypt, cost the Israeli taxpayer about £3m, the newspaper *Makor Rishon* said.

The newspaper also said that the Camp David peace had so far cost Israel more than £10,000m, as much as the October war against the Arabs in 1973.

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**Indians kill
13 members
of sect**

LONDON.—A crowd with knives and members of the religious sect of the Margia, who had been kidnapped after being taken from the northern outskirts of Ankara by a gang of northern outsiders, were reported this week to have been stopped in the same area. The agency which questioned children who had fled over to them said the Margia, founded 14 years ago, claim about 100,000 converts. Prabhar Kapoor, 24, was sentenced yesterday in a court of law to 15 years' imprisonment for conspiracy to commit treason, but he was overtaken by his six defectors in prison in 1974.

Price of peace to Israel

— The decision
of the small town of York,
Mass., to sell it to Egypt
has been ratified by the
voters; the newspaper New
Englander, which has been
the chief organ of the pro-
Egypt party, has issued a
statement that the war against

Refugee flight into terror

Group leader back in arms

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Nocturne. The Nine Choral Piano Concerto No. 3: Andante
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TUESDAY 4 May LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Klaus Tennstedt
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James Judd (cond.). Haydn: Surprise Op. 94. Vaughan Williams: Pro
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Orchestra Yuri Simonov (cond.) Classical Violin Concerto
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Ravel La Valse £1. 50. Tel: 01-928 3191

MONDAY 10 May HALLE ORCHESTRA Innis Brown (violin)
Mstislav Rostropovich (cello) Halé Concert Society
£2. 50. £3. 50. £4. 50. Tel: 01-928 3191

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Travel: edited by Shona Crawford Poole

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Spring snowshine

It was such a beautiful day that I decided to enjoy it. So in mid-April I left England, where spring had reached the mowings of lawns and early plantings, for the village of Täbyberg, population 240, on the western shore of Lake Siljan and the edge of the great northern wilderness that stretches across Scandinavia and the Soviet Union. There, spring advancing from the south was still waiting for winter to retreat.

The snow stood swept into high piles, and lay in clean berths on the cold side of ditches and hedges. The newly uncovered grass was yellow and soggy. From indoors one looked out on a blue "spring" day, but outside the wind was in the north, the lake was frozen over.

"What a pity, you have come too early," said Arne and Christina Åkersblad, renowned innkeepers of Täbyberg. My advisers in Stockholm had been misled, it appeared, by euphoria during a week of fine weather at Easter. The sun was hot, the people took the chains off



Winter landscape at old Upsala, Sweden.

their cars and went about saying: "Have a nice day! We shall pay for this!" "Spring at last!" Then there was a 6 in. fall of snow, the sleighs and shovels came out again and hope shrank.

This followed the hardest winter for 100 years: "Halloween (October, 31) is the day when the snow always comes," I was told. "This year it came 10 days before."

Of course there are consolations. Before the snow

comes the country is very dark - "like living in a sack." The snow spreads a kind of reflected light. The Swedes are organized for the winter. Houses are snug (even the gents' at Leksand railway station had a radiator) and brightly decorated. The pungent scent of wood fires hangs everywhere; and there is deep satisfaction in chucking logs on and watching them release the stored light and heat of summer.

At Christmas there are parties, and sleigh drives and skating and cross-country ski journeys. Cars can drive the short route across the frozen lake. And there is Swedish

food, with its infinitely resourceful variations of marinaded fish (at every lunchtime the Åkersblads served seven varieties of herring fillets).

It is not the cold that eats the spirit, but the long, long dark. By April the longing for the sun is a passion. "I feel now like an old potato long in the cellar," said a woman with whom I travelled north in the train.

Birgitta from the tourist office drove me round the lake proclaiming at the harbingers of spring: a girl on a

horse, boys playing marbles, some open water by a bridge with swans on it.

Bunting along the forest road she braked, shouting joyfully: "Tussilagen, did you see it?" She reversed 20 yards to show me the yellow flowers, like tiny suns dotted among the grass. She looked down tandemly. "It is the first of all the spring flowers," she said.

The sun was really hot, the sky pale blue and filled with high sailing clouds. It was so still in the forest the loudest sound was a squeaking from Birgitta's corduroy trousers as her legs overtook each other. After dinner I went for a walk to catch the sun bathing the lake in a steely silver glow. I could see the day's warmth draining away. I had just about enough warm clothes on.

The evenings passed at a sober gait. Most of the other guests were mature women at a political conference. "They are what you call Whigs," said Arne. "Do you have Whigs still?" "There's one left," I said, thinking of Jo Grimond. They kept themselves apart, even ignoring the big social event of the week, *Dallas* on Swedish TV.

On Sunday morning I went for another walk, uplifted by a slightly louder gurgling from the ditches as the snow released water. It seemed to me that the vague blur had appeared on the birch trees, and a kind of veil ofumber coloured the buds in the hedge. Blessings came from new lambs turned out to have a first look at the world.

If you like peace and quiet and natural beauty you will find this little outing deeply rewarding. Take or rent a car, take a friend for the long evenings. Do not take, as I did, suits of underwear that Sir Randolph Fiennes would have rejected as too thick. The normal English winter kit will see you through.

You can get there by Torline sea ferry to Gothenberg or by flying SAS to Stockholm and domestic flight to Borlange. Åkersblad Pension: From 205 kr (about £20) a person for full board in a double room with shower; from three to seven days. Weekly rate: 200 kr. Tor Holidays Ltd, Anzani House, Trinity Avenue, Felixstowe, has a summer brochure with spring breaks with car from £78.

A keener interest in school physics and chemistry lessons might have equipped me to solve the mystery of mousseine single-handed. The question is this. Why, when adding cream to a puree of raw fish - to make quenelles or the basis of a terrine - is it supposed to be necessary not only to chill the bowl on ice, and to incorporate the cream a little at a time, but chill the bowl in the refrigerator, for half an hour or so between each addition of cream?

Part of the answer seemed clear when a rushed batch resulted in a mousseine which tasted good, but had a wetter, more coarsely grained texture than the perfection I was aiming for.

The standard had been set at a lunch at The Ritz given by Country Chefs Seven, a club of young British chefs who wish to promote the excellence of modern British cooking. Since each of the seven chefs produced one course, the lunch was a long one. And the third course, a terrine of turbot made by Chef Muir MacSweeney of the Elms Hotel at Abberley, near Worcester, was nothing short of heavenly.

He parted with the recipe in the obliging way that chefs do nowadays, so I asked him about the business with the ice. Could one, I ventured, be trying to make some kind of emulsion which will only "take" in arctic temperatures, and if so, why do not recipes, even Escoffier's explain?

Chef MacSweeney thought not. Repeated chilling would have been necessary in big, hot restaurant kitchens in the days before food processors, but not now. Both fish and cream should be well chilled before they are combined. The trick, he says, is adding the right amount of cream. Too much and the mousseine will be wet and coarse, too little and it will be rubbery. How to judge this is explained in his recipe.

Terrine of turbot
Serves six to eight
250 g (9 oz) skinned and boned turbot

1 whole egg and 1 egg white
450 ml (1½ pint) double cream (see method)

Salt and cayenne pepper to taste

1 teaspoon ground mace

1 egg white

250 ml (8 fl oz) double cream, chilled

For the pastry

340g (12 oz) plain flour

1 teaspoon salt

Freshly ground black pepper

30g (1 oz) butter

2 tablespoons dry white wine

1 tablespoon cognac

2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill

2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives

For the aspic

150 ml (¼ pint) fish or chicken stock

1 tablespoon gelatine crystals

Salt to taste

1 tablespoon dry sherry

Make the salmon or salmon trout mousseine using the method explained in terrine of turbot.

Make the shortcrust pastry

The Times Cook

A puzzle at the Ritz

until needed, but not for more than two hours.

Blanch the spinach leaves in boiling water, after removing the tough stalks, and refresh them in cold water. Pat them dry.

Clean the scallops, but leave them whole.

Generously butter a terrine of 500ml (1½ pints) capacity and line it with spinach leaves. Half fill the terrine with mousseine, then lay the whole scallop closely together down its length. Cover with the remaining mousseine and top with spinach.

Tap the terrine sharply on a hard surface to settle the contents.

Cover the terrine with a lid or foil and stand it in a larger dish. Transfer both to a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) and pour boiling water into the larger dish, ideally to come two thirds of the way up the sides of the terrine. Bake for 30 minutes, then test with a skewer. If it will come out warm and clean the terrine is cooked.

Rest the terrine for 10 minutes before turning it on to a warm plate to serve hot, or leave it to cool in the terrine for serving cold.

At the Ritz lunch the terrine was served hot with a hearty *blancmange* sauce to which finely shredded sorrel had been added at the last moment.

Pate of salmon en croute is another recipe which uses fish mousseine, this time to bind pieces of whole fish which are cooked in a pastry case. The pastry used is a strong and usual version of shortcrust which is reinforced with egg.

Roll out the remaining pastry and trim it to make a lid. Damp the edges of the lid with water and fit the lid in place.

Glaze the pastry by brushing it with egg yolk and water. To allow steam to escape, cut a small hole in the centre of the lid and prop it open with a cylinder of several thicknesses of foil and crimp the edges with the back of a fork. Brush the lid again with glaze.

Bake in a baking sheet in a preheated moderately hot oven (190°C/375°F, gas mark 5) for 15 minutes, then lower the heat to moderate (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) and continue baking for another 1½ hours. If the crust is browning too quickly, cover it loosely with foil.

When the paté is almost cold, remove the foil chimney and chill it well.

To make the aspic strain the stock through a fine sieve lined with a double layer of damp muslin or with kitchen paper.

Sprinkle the gelatine on the stock, season to taste, in a small pan, and when it has swollen heat gently until the crystals have dissolved completely. Cool the aspic and stir in the sherry. Chill a spoonful of aspic to check that it sets firmly enough, and add more gelatine if necessary.

Place a small funnel in the hole in the lid of the paté and pour in a little of the aspic. If leaks in the pastry become apparent, chill the paté again to set the jelly inserted, then continue filling with melted aspic until it will accept no more. Chill the paté for several hours before serving.

A delicate cold sauce to serve with fish is easily made by mixing good mayonnaise half and half with single cream and plenty of finely chopped fresh dill.

in the usual way, but using the whole egg, and chill it well before rolling out.

To prepare the filling, cut the fish into long strips about 1.25 cm (½ inch) wide and thick. Season them with salt and pepper. Heat the butter in a frying pan and when it froths, add the fish. Fry it gently for only three or four minutes, just to firm the flesh. Transfer the fish to a plate to cool and sprinkle it with the wine and cognac.

To assemble the paté, generously butter or oil a rectangular hinged metal mould about 25 cm (10 inches) long by 7.5 cm (3 inches) wide and deep. Alternatively, use a non-stick loaf tin or similar dimensions. Roll out three-quarters of the dough on a lightly floured surface to a long rectangle about 8 mm (½ inch) thick. Lower the rolled dough carefully into the mould. Gently press the pastry against the base and sides of the mould so that it forms an even, crack-free crust which will be imprinted with the pattern of the tin. Trim the edges flush with the top on the tin.

Drain the fish fillets and beat a little of the wine and brandy marinade into the mousseine. Spread a layer of mousseine over the base of the pastry and top it with a closely packed layer of fish, sprinkled with herbs. Continue the layers to the top of the tin, finishing with a layer of mousseine.

Roll out the remaining pastry and trim it to make a lid. Damp the edges of the lid with water and fit the lid in place.

Glaze the pastry by brushing it with egg yolk and water. To allow steam to escape, cut a small hole in the centre of the lid and prop it open with a cylinder of several thicknesses of foil and crimp the edges with the back of a fork. Brush the lid again with glaze.

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Shoparound with Beryl Downing

The spending spree of the happy snappers

It is no wonder amateur photographers are known as happy snappers. Apparently unaffected by the recession, they are expected to spend £550m on their hobby this year, £210m of which goes on developing and printing. According to Kodak, 9 per cent more will be sold this year than last year, and 12 per cent more prints will be made. And there is a definite trend to 35mm cameras.

For a while, amateurs flirted with the 110s, which first appeared in 1972. Neat, foolproof and pocketable, they were ideal for the instant picture for the family album — all the focusing and exposure done for you; no danger of the subject disappearing or the spontaneous expression fading or, worse, freezing, while you fiddle with your film.

But a 110 negative has to be enlarged nearly seven times to produce a standard print and that often means loss of definition and colour. The 35mm film, to produce the same print, is enlarged only 3½ times and the results are considerably better. The problem was how to keep the size of film and reduce the size of the basic box which as Lord Snowdon has shown us all recently *On Camera*, is all you need to take a picture provided you have Venice as your backdrop.

The answer was the pocket version of the 35mm camera, known as the compact — a neat name for a group of cameras that are not always as simple to use as their size would imply. There are more than 72 models which vary considerably in performance, use and price, so how can you be sure of getting value for money?

To find out, Shoparound did what any inexperienced amateur might do — bought copies of the specialist camera magazines and browsed through their recommendations in various price

categories. We made our selection from their suggested best buys, but then came up against our first problem — not all were easily available.

So we rang round the stores to discover which models were well distributed and we selected six to test: one cheapie, The Boots Beirrette, four middle-range models, the Konica C35 EF3, Mamiya U, Chinon Bellami and Olympus XA2 and one upper-bracket camera, the Ricoh FF1S. We did not look at auto focus cameras which are usually relatively more expensive and do not offer the user the option of making his own decisions.

As the cameras we chose are not intended for professional use we gave them to an experienced amateur, Russell Malkin, to test and we asked him to take the sort of photographs a holiday-maker might snap — buildings, landscapes, people, pets, with the instruction to include a long-distance view, a close-up and an indoor shot.

We only tested the flash on those cameras where it was built in — a facility liked by the average point-and-click amateur. Those who prefer a greater degree of control and others learning about photography would probably opt for the greater flexibility provided by the models with a hot shoe facility.

Each subject was photographed with each camera, allowing a minimum time to elapse between cameras so that the light conditions varied as little as possible. Conditions were sunny in all shots. The film, FP4, was developed and printed at *The Times* with the instruction that each roll was to be given the same treatment with no adjustments made to affect the final prints.

The pictures shown are the results. The notes are taken from the report, compiled by Russell Malkin, as he operated each camera.

Boots Beirrette BL. £16.95.



Made in East Germany. Overall measurements: 4½in x 2½in. No lens cap. Hot shoe facility for flash. Available from major branches of Boots.

Ease of use: film speed, from 25 to 125 ASA, could be changed accidentally when turning aperture of focusing rings. As shutter speed is altered the film speed changes as both are adjusted by the same ring.

Focusing and exposure: dark viewfinder with narrow field of view. Focusing done by guessing distance and setting focusing ring. Exposure by symbols — sun, half sun, light cloud, dark cloud.

Results: all the pictures were slightly off centre and some were out of focus.

Verdict: although the price makes this an attractive proposition for the beginner, results may be disappointing until the user has learned to compensate for the discrepancy between viewfinder and lens. Bulky design and not easily pocketable. Lack of lens cap a definite disadvantage.

Konica C35 EF3. £59.99.



In black, red, white, royal blue and gold. Made in Japan. 4½in x 1¾in. Separate lens cap. Built-in flash. Available from Dixons, Wallace Heaton, Bond Street, W1, Rother Cameras, Tottenham Court Road, W1.

Ease of use: film, 25 to 400 ASA with intermediate settings, easily slotted in

with well designed take-up spool. Simple to set without danger of accidental change.

Focusing and exposure: focusing ring marked with feet, metres and four symbols from close-up to infinity. Light next to viewfinder goes red if light conditions too low. Camera does not turn itself off, so if shutter is cocked release button can still be operated, so could go off in pocket or handbag.

Automatic exposure. Easy, self-charging, pop-up flashlight glows when ready. Self timer with flashing red light.

Results: Good, clear definition in daylight. Rather dark results with flash.

Verdict: cumbersome design with all knobs and buttons projecting. Separate lens cap a serious fault — easily lost. Flash not consistent. Too much put into the colour range and not enough into the basic design.

Olympus XA2. £70.

Made in Japan. 4in x 1½in. With detachable flash, 5½in x 1½in. Integral sliding lens cover. Available from Dixons, Greens, Comet, Rother Cameras, who have it for £64.95.

Ease of use: Easy to load and smooth wind on. Film speeds 25 to 800 ASA.

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Automatic exposure. Easy, self-charging, pop-up flashlight glows when ready. Self timer with flashing red light.

Results: Good, clear definition in daylight. Rather dark results with flash.

Verdict: cumbersome design with all knobs and buttons projecting. Separate lens cap a serious fault — easily lost. Flash not consistent. Too much put into the colour range and not enough into the basic design.

Olympus XA2. £70.

Made in Japan. 4in x 1½in. With detachable flash, 5½in x 1½in. Integral sliding lens cover. Available from Dixons, Greens, Comet, Rother Cameras, who have it for £64.95.

Ease of use: Easy to load and smooth wind on. Film speeds 25 to 800 ASA.

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Focusing

P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

A FRIEND INDEED

From the first day of the Falklands crisis, the United States assumed the role of mediator for a combination of reasons. It did not wish to sully its relations with Latin America in general and Argentina in particular by openly backing a European nation in the western hemisphere; and the United States administration maintained that it could more effectively bring its influence to bear in favour of a peaceful settlement by acting as an honest broker rather than a partisan.

The British Government publicly and repeatedly welcomed American mediation, whether for reasons of prudence or genuine enthusiasm. It is certainly good that the attempt was made, and the course pursued with the zeal that Mr Haig brought to the task. Otherwise there would have been critics who maintained that American mediation would have brought a swift peace if only it had been tried. Now it has been tried as hard and for as long as could reasonably have been expected, without of itself producing the necessary result. The pressures that could properly be exerted by a mediator did not bring Argentina to accept a just and satisfactory settlement.

Now the United States is throwing in its weight on Britain's side, this is doubly welcome. It is good for Anglo-American relations which would have suffered if it had seemed that the United States was clinging to the role of mediator well beyond the point at which there was any reasonable chance of Mr Haig's shuttle diplomacy producing a negotiated settlement. There would have been the impression then that the American administration was more interested in saving itself from embarrassment than in securing a fair outcome. The decision must also be reassuring elsewhere in Europe, showing as it does, that when it comes to the hard point, the United States

is a friend and ally which can be counted on.

It is also encouraging because it means that far more pressure will now be brought to bear upon Argentina. Britain has responded to the seizure of the Falklands with an impressive resolution. The mobilization of the task force has been a technical achievement of a high order. The policy of gradually increasing the military pressure on the Argentine forces step by step has shown that strength was being applied with judgment. But real power in the Western world is exercised nowadays by the United States. If it stands aside, then an aggressor has to face only a small proportion of the strength — military, economic and psychological — that could and should be mobilized against it.

There will even now be no direct military involvement of American forces, but that was never expected. Without going so far as that, there is a good deal that the United States can and will now do to help Britain's cause. Mr Haig said yesterday that the administration "will respond positively for requests for materiel support for British forces". There is much that can be provided in terms of logistical back-up for a task force operating some 8000 miles from home. In-flight refuelling could be given to British planes. Tanker supplies could be made available. Any shortage that suddenly became evident could be met much more swiftly with American assistance than if everything had to be supplied from Britain.

A variety of sanctions will now be imposed upon Argentina. President Reagan has ordered the suspension of all military exports there, and "the withholding of certification of Argentine eligibility for military sales". Over a period of time this would be bound to have a serious effect upon Argentine military capacity. The strictly economic sanctions will have both an immediate and delayed effect. The suspension of bank credits and guarantees, and of commodity credit corporation guarantees, will probably take a few months to have their full impact. But the mere imposition of these restrictions must be a severe blow to confidence in an economy that was already in grave difficulties. Altogether this is a strong package of measures that the administration has announced, an indication that when Mr Reagan does move he moves firmly.

Beyond the measures themselves there is the psychological effect of the United States having now taken sides. When Mr Pym meets Mr Haig in Washington this weekend he will be speaking to him once again as an ally and a partner, not as a neutral personage. That is how it ought to be between any British Foreign Secretary and any Secretary of State. It will add confidence to a British enterprise that has never been lacking in determination.

This should strengthen the British resolve to persist in the strategy of steadily increasing the pressure on Argentina. That pressure will now be immeasurably greater because the junta must surely realize that the United States could not afford now to let Britain lose over the Falklands without itself losing respect in Latin America and elsewhere. It should therefore improve the chances of a peaceful solution, and Mr Pym's visit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York will also be an indication of Britain's overwhelming desire for a peaceful settlement, if possible. But the American decision to stand alongside Britain will make it easier for the Government to insist upon the principles for which it has taken action. This is good not only for the alliance but also for those who believe that aggression, from whatever quarter it may come, must always be resisted.

Housing renewal in inner cities

From Mr David Webb and others

Sir, As directors of the major inner city housing associations, we welcome Michael Heseltine's wholehearted involvement in working to save these decaying areas (report, April 15). His personal commitment has undoubtedly affected the climate in which we and others work for inner city renewal. We share his belief that they can be saved.

But in trying to halt the collapse of community life, as Mr Heseltine himself puts it, "many policies conflict". The decline in Government's programme of investment through the Housing Corporation, which is now down from 35,000 homes to 20,000, has greatly reduced our contribution to inner city housing renewal.

Moreover, the effect of a range of government policies has been to shift the emphasis of this much smaller programme away from improving and rehabilitating homes in the most deprived inner city areas. New initiatives and priorities, although valuable in themselves, have combined to take away resources from the most urgent of housing priorities, the improvement of living conditions for the disadvantaged in these areas.

Currently, these programmes have little priority and the recently announced annual allocations to housing associations under the Housing Corporation confirm this trend. They show no specific programme at all for inner city rehabilitation, which is swept up into a category of "Other Needs". At the same time reductions to our work intensity on the problems of unemployment, particularly among the unemployed, in these tense neighbourhoods.

Not only are we suffering from these reduced programmes, but this year we will also be unable to get on with improvement works on hundreds of our existing properties, many of them standing empty, because the Housing Corporation cannot finance the necessary works. The ultimate costs will be much greater after a further period of continued neglect.

Over the last 15 years, the work of inner city housing associations has received considerable recognition and support from successive Governments of differing persuasions. It was we who virtually pioneered rehabilitation in inner city areas. We have no doubts that our work accords with the objectives so forcefully advocated by Mr Heseltine in his article of April 15, but can we expect the decisions of his Department and Housing Corporation to fall into line with his own priorities?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WEBB
JOHN COWARD
DAVID MUMFORD
DONALD HOODLESS
PAUL THOMPSON
MICHAEL SMITH
ALAN KILBURN
ANDREW MALONE
MIKE AGER
DON WOOD
CATHERINE MEREDITH
JANET HAMMOND
PETER NORMAN
BILL MARTIN
JIM COULTER
Circle 33 Housing Trust Ltd.
26 St Pancras Road, NW1.
April 23.

Christian dilemma on threat of war

From the Reverend P. G. Atkinson

Sir, All Christians must pray for peace in the Falkland Islands, and must deplore the warmongering of some of our fellow-countrymen. The reported opinion of Mr Anthony Marlow, MP (The Times, April 21), that the morale of the armed forces would suffer if the naval task force were to return home without having been used, is a particularly shameful instance of this. That being said, however, Christians are not committed to the pacifist opinions advocated in your columns this morning (April 21) by the Reverend Gordon Wilson.

Pacifism, like voluntary poverty or the celibate state, is a precept of the Gospel, with the practical implications of which the Christian conscience must always wrestle. Like those other disciplines, however, pacifism may equally become a way of evading serious attention to the moral dilemmas presented by the society in which Christians find themselves placed.

In the present dispute, the British Government has a prima facie case, which the pacifist is bound to answer. The homeland of a small and defenceless community has been occupied against the wishes of that community by a powerful military regime with a discreditable record in the matter of human rights. The British Government has an undeniable responsibility for the freedom and welfare of the Islanders, and is at present seeking to discharge this responsibility by diplomatic means.

But diplomacy, to be effective, requires bargaining power, and such power the Government hopes to secure, in the first place by pressure of economic sanction, and, as a last resort, by military threat. Such is the Government's position; and, prima facie, it is a morally defensible one.

The pacifist must surely demonstrate, either, that the facts of the case are other than I have described, or, that there is some other practical method by which the Government may discharge its responsibility to the Islanders; or, that the total damage to human life (not something to be accounted merely in terms of immediate bloodshed) which is likely to result from the Government's present course of action

will outweigh the good it is trying to achieve.

Perhaps the pacifist can make out such a case; but it has not been made yet. Mr Wilson's picturesque proposal that the United Kingdom and Argentina should collaborate in erecting a shrine on the Islands as a shrine of peace, does nothing to assist in the resolution of the problem, or to encourage the rest of us to take seriously the pacifist's

Yours sincerely,
P. G. ATKINSON,
The Glebe House,
6 Rectory Grove,
Clapham, SW4.

From Mr David Evans

Sir, I was surprised that you ventured into the debate on "The Just War" in your leading article last Saturday. While admiring your honesty, however, I must confess it seemed to me too deep and perhaps too issue for a newspaper to comment upon.

Having said that, there are two comments I would like to make on what you said:

1. You say "there are two respectable traditions; one of total pacifism, the other based on the just war."

I am glad to say that the majority of publishers is represented by this tradition.

Surely that position is an honourable one as it derives from a conviction that a "just" nuclear war is a contradiction in terms in that it cannot limit killing to (in your own words) "those directly involved...with the force that has to be resisted."

2. Surely the Christian, in understanding he is "a citizen of two cities" (as you put it), should be able to see better than most that status, national sovereignty, teaching an aggressor a lesson, are all less important than seeking a compromise with the Argentinians which allows the Falkland Islanders interests to be fully protected, and yet at the same time can be accepted by a military junta which in its weakness must "save face".

Yours faithfully,
DAVID EVANS,
Rivendell,
3 Green Lane Close,
Chertsey,
Surrey.
April 27.

Getting a share of lending right

From Lord Willis

Sir, It was the clear wish of Parliament that public lending right should benefit authors and authors alone. The publishers played no part in the long campaign to establish PLR and neither the Act nor the scheme for its implementation makes any mention of publishers.

However, not only PLR has become law, and there is a prospect of money for authors from 1983-84 onwards, a few disreputable publishers are using the back door to secure for themselves a share of the small pool of money that the Government has made available.

The method is simple. Authors are being told that unless they agree to give the publisher a share of their earnings from PLR their books will not be published. Some publishers are asking for as much as 50 per cent, others for 25 per cent.

Of course, no publisher would dare to make such a demand of a highly successful author, who could simply take his books elsewhere. So this imposition falls mainly on the poorer authors, the very people for whom PLR was designed.

I am glad to say that the majority of publishers is represented by this tradition.

Surely that position is an honourable one as it derives from a conviction that a "just" nuclear war is a contradiction in terms in that it cannot limit killing to (in your own words) "those directly involved...with the force that has to be resisted."

One of them is blackmail.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIS,

Chairman, Authors' Lending and Copyright Society,

House of Lords.

April 26.

Bankside Leviathans

From Mr A. C. Rodgers

Sir, I was somewhat shocked to read the article by Simon Jenkins (April 23) on the Green Giant competition. In the event that

assessors should agree with your learned journalist and select Mr Farrell's ugly architectural joke, I would assume the burden of the joke will rest on the pension funds.

It is a deplorable situation when public money is put into what may become a rather short-lived joke appealing only to an architectural elite. I for one cannot see the funny side.

Yours faithfully,
A. C. RODGERS,
24 Ossulton Road, SE1.

Prevention is better

From Mr J. M. F. Clarke

Sir, Miss Edmundson (April 26) requests that car manufacturers place a little padding on the back of head-restraints. This would only soften a blow which is preventable.

Rear passenger seat belts are designed to stop such injuries as the one described.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. F. CLARKE,
The Middlesex Hospital,
Mortimer Street, W1.

Countryside trust

From Mr Montague Keen

Sir, The logic of the Chairman of the Exmoor Society (April 21) is enchanting, and very typical of well-intentioned conservationists with their feet firmly on the clouds.

Mr Guy Somerset rightly points to the serious difficulty in finding public money to compensate farmers who may be restricted from gainful activities on their land in order to satisfy what some conservationist bodies quite sincerely believe to be the superior interests of safeguarding certain flora and fauna. He commends the solution of outright purchase of land by responsible public bodies. He accepts, however, that it would be politically impossible for the national parks authority to raise this money — at the expense of other rate-based services already under severe pressure; he acknowledges that the National Trust cannot find more money for this purpose.

He might have added, and I am sure he would agree, that two of the other quangos, the Countryside Commission and the Nature Conservancy Council, find themselves seriously starved of cash as it is and could not possibly contemplate any such huge burdens.

And yet he calmly recommends the creation of a consortium of such bodies, private and public, to take on the task of a special fund. In some magical but unspecified way the cross-fertilization of these individually impudent bodies will make available "adequate funds which are so conspicuously lacking at present". Hey presto!

Yours faithfully,
MONTAGUE KEEN,
School Barn Farm,
Penstow,
Sudbury, Suffolk.

Con fuoco

From the Reverend D. G. Richards

Sir, In 1973 there was a concert and organ recital in the church of SS Peter and Paul, Neath. Next the church was the fire station. During the playing of a piece by Bach the fire siren sounded; with great presence of mind and skill the organist changed key with the siren and earned spontaneous applause. Not true Bach but great fun.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK RICHARDS,
The Rectory,
Barmouth, Merioneth.

THAILAND'S ROLE IN THE FRONT LINE

Thailand's military rulers are nowadays more likely to see themselves as guardians of a still frail but budding democracy than the dictators of the past, so no savour of distaste diluted the welcome to Thailand's Prime Minister, General Prem Tinsulanond on his visit to London this week. From London he has gone on to Paris and Brussels, a mark of the close and now regular ties that link the European Community with the Association of South-East Asian nations (Asean).

General Prem represents a country that is in some ways unique in the region and certainly one of the most important in South-East Asia. From being an area supposedly under threat of communist expansion since the war of French withdrawal from Indo-China, South-East Asia is now a well-knit zone of successful economic growth and relatively mature nationalism. When Lord Carrington toured the area earlier this year he took with him a posse of businessmen bent on expansion no doubt, but no political extremist has yet

been found to castigate trade expansion.

Thailand's obvious claim to uniqueness is that — by Anglo-French agreement — the country escaped the rapacity of late nineteenth century colonialism. The fact is obvious: the implications are less appreciated. Not only does Thailand live in a sense of territorial and administrative continuity symbolised by a still healthy and respected monarchy. Thailand's ex-colonial colleagues in Asean are all new states, in the sense of finding their present territorial, ethnic and social mixtures, a new problem in nation building. Even Indonesia's substantial political heritage, though it may influence, cannot simply define or shape the country now ruled from Jakarta.

Moreover, the Thais conserve a better sense of where they are. Their links with China are real; even though they were attenuated in the colonial era, they have never lost their significance to either side, whereas in the minds of Malaysians and

Indonesians China is associated primarily with the Chinese communities in their midst. An important relic of the past is Thailand's old rivalry with Vietnam. Thailand's relationship with its Vietnamese-dominated and Vietnamese communist-inspired neighbours of Laos and Cambodia is one of the disastrous legacies of French rule, in so far as that rule evicted Thai influence from Cambodia and Laos (countries closer in every sense to Thailand) and freely allowed Vietnamese immigration and influence into both countries.

While the cooperation of Asean in resolving the difficulties faced on this communist frontier has been helpful, it remains Thailand that is most involved, by both continuity and past relations, with Vietnam and with China. Since the Indo-China war finally came to end in 1975, the fear of further dominoes falling in South-East Asia has not been a major source of world anxiety. The credit for that goes to Asean and not the least among its members to Thailand.

Day after day, Mr Morrison conducted what is described as an interview with Kissinger, but they asked not a single critical question, least of all about Kissinger's own credibility. Such questions are apparently known as "needling".

Indeed, the men from *The Times* quickly added that Dr Kissinger's "humour seemed to have recovered from that onslaught" (my question to him) and they went on to describe William Shawcross's charges against Kissinger as a controversy which no longer raged. How comforting for both interviewee and interviewer!

"Ams, while controversy may no longer rage, truth does. Kissinger, in his latest, huge and apologetic book's appendix, fails to refute Shawcross's central and meticulously documented charge that he and Nixon secretly and illegally conducted a massive bombing campaign against neutral Cambodia. Surely, journalism is demeaned by deference to the kind of pretentious "statesmanship" affected by Henry Kissinger; or is this only understood by those, like myself, who have seen the terrible human consequences of his "diplomacy", in Indochina and elsewhere?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PILGER,
57 Hanham Road, SW4

Claiming benefits

From Dr Z. Mahmood

Sir, Pat Healy's report in *The Times* (April 16) points out a serious blemish which continues to mar the concept of "caring society". In spite of repeated attempts by the Government to encourage people to claim their rights, an ever increasing number of sick, disabled and aged people are failing to claim full supplementary benefits which they are entitled to, resulting in a £35m "saving" (choice of this word reeks of insensitivity, perhaps "unpaid debt"), a more apologetic phrase, would have been more appropriate.

The intention of the Government and the Local Authorities to publish (yet another) explanatory leaflet is unlikely to publicise effectively, who is eligible and who is not. In my opinion, one of the major reasons for the inefficiency of explanatory leaflets and guide booklets is that they are written in a language not fully comprehensible to the "average sick, disabled and aged individuals".

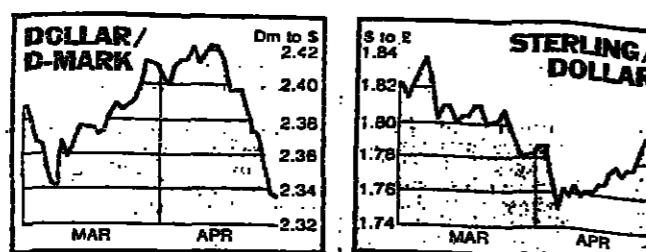
In Britain, the generally acceptable level of "literacy" considered sufficient for an individual to "get by" in everyday life is a Reading Age of nine years (that of an average nine-year-old schoolchild). However, most of the Government leaflets require a much higher literacy level than that. Various investigations have shown that the Reading Age required for the Family Income Supplement Leaflet is between 14-17 years. Family

has been called "prickly" by some, and further attempts to needle him were made at the press conference, where one journalist asked why this book included such a long defensive appendix refuting the charges made by William Shawcross about American bombing in Cambodia.

Day after day, Mr Morrison conducted what is described as an interview with Kissinger, but they asked not a single critical question, least of all about Kissinger's own credibility. Such questions are apparently known as "needling".

BUSINESS NEWS

Sterling still strong



Sterling has performed well against the dollar this week despite the Falklands crisis. But this has, in large measure, been a reflection of dollar weakness. The United States currency has fallen away sharply, especially against the Deutschmark and the yen as foreign exchange operators have come to the conclusion that American interest rates may well start to fall soon. The pound has gained 2.25 cents against the dollar over the week, but it has lost ground to other currencies, falling, for instance, from DM 4.23 to DM 4.18%. The index against a basket of currencies has fallen 0.2 to 89.6. United Kingdom interest rates were little changed yesterday, though the Treasury Bill rate rose from 12.89 to 12.98 per cent at the weekly tender.

US markets in disarray

Confusion reigned yesterday on the United States commodity markets when news came in that Argentina would be willing to accept a United Nations resolution and withdraw its troops from the Falklands.

Financial markets had been uncertain and in early morning trading, after a pessimistic forecast by Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, the commodity markets rose again in brisk trading while stock prices dropped.

Disposal boosts Chrysler

Chrysler Corporation made net profits of \$149.9m (£83.2m) in the first quarter, compared with a \$38.3 loss a year earlier. However, the net profit figure includes a gain of \$17.1m from the sale of its Chrysler Defence subsidiary and \$66.9m from tax credits. Chrysler's operating loss for the quarter was \$89.1m compared with a \$320m loss in the same quarter last year. Sales rose to \$2.51m from \$2.25m last year, it said.

Belgium invited to June summit

Belgium has been invited to the June Summit in Paris of major industrialized countries, ending a diplomatic wrangle over whether it should be allowed to attend. Belgium contended that it should be present in its capacity as current president of the European Community Council of Ministers.

Sketchley's \$33-a-share offer for Means Services, the American rental wear business, has lapsed. The bid lapsed after ARA Services, which was counter-bidding for Means at \$37, said it was paying for the Means shares already tendered to it. This amounted to 86 per cent.

The American company Digital Communication Corporation has now awarded the main part of a £1m contract for the supply of microwave equipment granted to the Mercury consortium headed by Cable & Wireless.

MARKET SUMMARY

GEC leaps after hours

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 575.1 down 6.9
FT Gilt 67.70 down 0.16
FT All Share 328.09 down 2.98
Bargains 15, 580

Reports that Argentina is prepared to comply with the United Nations Resolution and withdraw from the Falklands came late for the Stock Market. But after being 11.3 adrift at 1pm the FT Index recovered to close down 6.9 at 575.1.

Jobbers quickly marked up leading equities by 10p and more after hours but were so reluctant to deal that they would only make a market in 25p. Lloyd's Bank shares, in effect, off the normal market in 50,000. They were nominally marked up 10p in the 39p closing price.

Trade in gilts remained quiet with a small amount of selling pushing prices down by up to 1% at the close. Stockbrokers Akroyd & Smithers halted dealings when news of the apparent breakthrough arrived only minutes before the market closed. There were reports of limited after hours dealing at up to 2% above closing levels.

The outstanding after hours performance was put in by GEC with a 31p leap to 880p after easing 7p to 849p during the day.

Dealers now expect large gains when the market reopens on Tuesday after the long weekend, with bulls looking for the Index to jump by 20 to 30 points.

Supermarket giant J Sainsbury provided one of the few bright spots with a 10p jump to 630p.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,390.71 down 14.57
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,323.36 up 20.27

COMMODITIES

It was a "half day" on the London Metal Exchange as the holiday draw near, but gold futures in New York responded to news about Argentina and the Falklands. After the August position closed 27.1 in London at \$208 an ounce, gold futures slumped by the \$25 limit in New York when it was reported that Argentina had agreed to abide by the Security Council resolution and the United States would apply sanctions.

Other metals also rose in London before the market closed at lunchtime. But on the whole trading was quiet, some speculators preferring to take the day off.

By contrast, the softs traded for the whole day. The May International Petroleum Exchange gas

90,600 video recorders last month.

Taxes lead BNOC to look abroad

By Jonathan Davis
Energy Correspondent

The state-owned British National Oil Corporation, which yesterday reported a record pretax profit of £438m, is planning a significant expansion overseas after its scheduled privatization later this year — partly to reduce its exposure to the British North Sea operations.

Mr Philip Shelbourne, the corporation's chairman, presenting the 1981 annual report in Glasgow, attacked the offshore oil tax regime, which he said was in danger of driving drilling rigs out of the North Sea and creating serious oil production shortages in the late 1980s. Instead of the present three-tier tax system with its top marginal rate of 89 per cent, oil companies should only be required to pay corporation tax at 52 per cent as for the rest of manufacturing industry, he said.

Despite the 42 per cent increase in pretax profits from £308m to £438m, BNOC's net profit after tax was only marginally up from £72m to £77m. This included special Petroleum Duty payments of £126m, and corporation tax and Petroleum Revenue Tax provisions totalling £26m.

Mr Shelbourne said he was confident that the planned issue of 51 per cent of the shares in BNOC's exploration and production activities would be completed before the end of the year, despite fears that it could be delayed by the depressed state of the oil market. The sale, which the Government hopes will raise at least £750m, is scheduled for November, although Mr Shelbourne said the issue was likely to be partly paid for to make it easier for the market to absorb.

BNOC's overseas activities, which now include exploration interests in Dubai, Indonesia and Denmark, is expected to grow even more strongly after privatization.

British Telecom plans to open data centres in the major cities to demonstrate new equipment available from the corporation. The company already has centres in London, Aldershot and Manchester and has one planned for Birmingham.

Cash problem could halt Alaska pipeline

From Nicholas Hirst, New York, April 30

The proposed US \$43,000m (£25,000m) Alaskan gas pipeline intended to take gas from the Prudhoe Bay oil field across Canada and into the United States could be delayed indefinitely.

A regular monthly meeting of the design and engineering board of the project in Salt Lake City was today considering whether high interest rates and slack demand for natural gas in the United States had so damaged the economics of the pipeline that it would be impossible to finance it.

The three oil companies involved in the project — Sohio, a subsidiary of British Petroleum with a 33 per cent share, and Atlantic Richfield and Exxon, which each have a 10 per cent share of the pipeline — have so far

been unable to agree a budget that seems extremely unlikely.

The oil companies, however, cannot allow gas to build up in the fields indefinitely without risking damaging the reservoir. Ultimately the United States is going to need the gas.

Buyer found for BMK Carpets

By Rupert Morris

BMK, the Kilmarnock-based manufacturer of high-quality Axminster, Wilton and Berber carpets, has been bought by Mr John Logue, a former management consultant, six months after the company went into receivership last October.

When Blackwood Morton, the parent company went into liquidation, it had been losing money since 1976, and employed about 1,500 people. Mr Logue, who owns the Gloucestershire engineering company SAP, has been working closely with the receivers and expects BMK to break even this year. It lost £3.75m last year and £1.5m in 1980.

Deloitte Haskins and Sells, the receivers, are expected to make a statement to Blackwood Morton creditors and shareholders within the next few weeks.

Eight SuperSave stores in the North Midlands have been bought by Mr David Lee of Newark, Notts, three weeks after they went into receivership.

Gulf wins Lonrho battle

Gulf Fisheries of Kuwait, the leading shareholder in Lonrho with 15 per cent, yesterday stopped Lonrho raising its borrowing limits by 50 per cent.

More than 71 per cent of the votes cast were in support of Mr Roland "Tinny" Rowland's proposal and 28.34 per cent against. But the resolution required approval from 75 per cent of the votes.

Votes were cast by 20,528

people of whom 18,485, or 90.95 per cent, were in favour of Lonrho's proposal.

Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, said last night the group was not disappointed with the outcome but believed the proposals had been far-sighted for Lonrho's expansion over the next decade.

Action by toy manufacturer

Hornby to shed 400 jobs

By Baron Phillips

400 volunteers for redundancy are shareholders.

At the time of the rescue bid Mr Mueller forecast profits of about £1m. Last night he was confident that Hornby would produce earnings of about that figure on sales of £15m-£16m.

The company is calling for volunteers for redundancy and the final figure could be as low as 390 depending on the number of full-time jobs lost among the mainly female labour force.

Hornby has been part of British childhood (and in many cases adulthood) from the DCM receivers last June with £5m backing from City institutions, including

Household, Citicorp Development Capital and Electra Investment Trust. Under the deal 20 per cent of the equity was left with the directors and employees. Some of the

Bond pulls out of Lacey talks

By Philip Robinson

whose shares were suspended at 35p on the London Stock Exchange on Tuesday after falling from a 12p high in the past 12 months. Total debts a year ago were put at about £20m.

It is now thought that Waltons Bond has pre-emptive rights over the stake which was put up as security for the NCC loan which is said to have paid for two gold mines in Western Australia last December.

Mr Oates said: "I am advised not to comment on that."

The terms of ownership of the Simplicity stake could be crucial to NCC and its new 38 per cent shareholder, the Northern Bank Development Corporation, part of Midland Bank.

It became NCC's shareholder on Wednesday after appointing Mr Guy Parry and Mr Richard Agutter of accountants Peat Marwick Mitchell joint receivers to the company.

Waltons Bond owns 13.4 per cent of Simplicity Par-

tnership, where Mr Lacey is chairman and chief executive and his NCC group has declared it owns 20 per cent.

But yesterday it emerged that there could be some doubt over whether NCC's Simplicity stake is held free of all conditions. The stake is a main factor in the balance sheet of the loss-making energy exploration company

Waltons Bond. It is believed the NCC shares were the principal asset of Birmingham and Midland Counties Trust. But the receivers were still atti-

empting to sort the company out last night at a meeting which started after June.

The Northern Bank had obtained a temporary injunction on Wednesday preventing NCC from disposing of its Simplicity stake without shareholder approval. The injunction expires next Wednesday.

Meanwhile, it has emerged that three million NCC shares were issued four months ago as security for a £6.7m loan which was borrowed from NCC's New York advisers Drexel Burnham Lambert to buy a further £61,000 Simplicity shares which took NCC's holding to 20 per cent.

In a prepared statement, Bond says that the circumstances surrounding NCC would have no adverse effects on its associate company Waltons Bond.

There have been no official statements from Mr Ferguson since the NCC share suspension, although announcements are expected on a daily basis by his New York advisers.

They have already experienced shock at the receipt of Simplicity's letter of termination in October 1978 to buy the whole of the issued capital of BMTC Counties Trust Ltd. The group has three directors, Mr Ferguson Lacey, his septuagenarian life long friend Mr Cecil McBride and company secretary Mr Stephen West.

Lloyd's in clash over Qantas

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Bitter criticism of the ruling committee of Lloyd's was voiced yesterday by a leading Lloyd's broker over the decision to hold an inquiry into the renewal of insurance for Qantas, the Australian airline.

Mr Kenneth Grob, chairman of Alexander Howden which won the account from rival Bainbridge Daws, said the decision was nonsensical and attacked the committee for behaving "like clowns". If they can do anything wrong and foul any situation up, they will do so, he said.

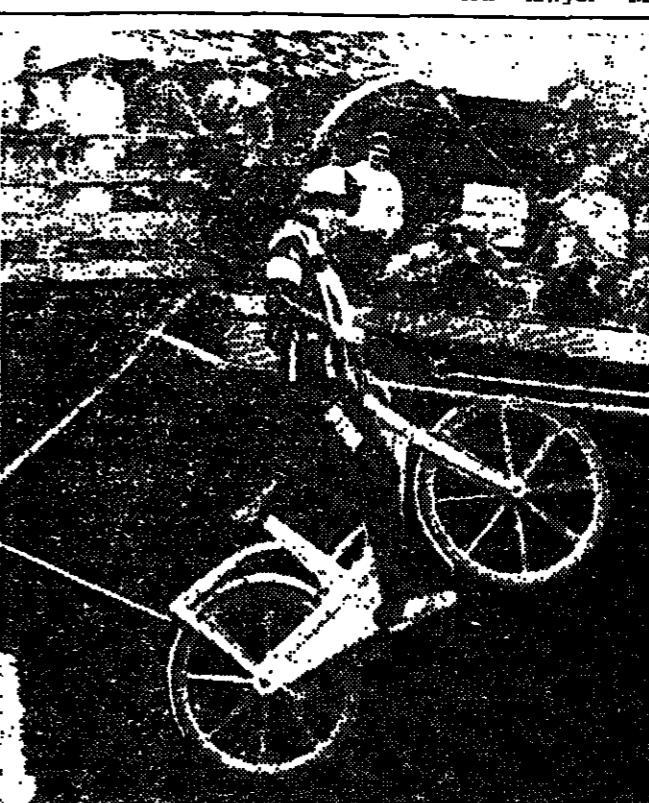
The Qantas affair has the makings of yet another major internal row in the London insurance market just as the Lloyd's Bill, designed to improve regulation in the market, reaches its Committee Stage in the House of Lords. Hearings start on Tuesday and the Qantas affair looks certain to bear on the contentious issues of diversion and immunity.

Lloyd's set up a sub-committee under deputy-chairman Mr Tim Brennan to establish the facts of the Qantas case on Wednesday after representations from the market.

Aviation underwriters appear to have been upset when Howden tried to place the business in the Lloyd's market with Mr Ian Postgate, a marine underwriter whose syndicate is managed by the Howden Group, leading the underwriting.

The business has now been placed with Mr Postgate, who is also Lloyd's committee member, getting only a small share. Howden, meanwhile, is taking a \$500,000 loss on the business under its own insurance.

Mr Grob said that Howden would sue the Lloyd's committee if the inquiry damaged its reputation and would also try to block the immunity clause in the Lloyd's Bill, designed to protect the committee from such litigation.



Plastic bike takes off.

Plastic bike launched

By Clive Cookson

The world's first all-plastic bicycle was launched in Britain with a splash yesterday when Billy Holmes (16), son of the man responsible for selling the Swedish-made Itera bike in this country, pedalled over the quayside in St Katherine's Dock, London.

All the Itera's structural components are made of injection-moulded composite plastics, developed originally for the aerospace industry. According to Mr Magnus Samuelsson, the Swedish co-founder of the Itera company, the bicycle is the first product to be made from these materials for the mass market.

As Billy Holmes was launching the Itera his father's company was announcing the closure of one of its bicycle factories at Barton, South Humberside.

The 200 employees at Barton will be offered new jobs eight miles away in Brigg, so "no major redundancies are expected."

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The 20



Hinckley top of the crop

Subscription Account is the name given to regular savings accounts by most building societies and they generally involve paying a regular sum on a monthly basis.

You are not usually allowed to add large capital sums to the account although you can in certain circumstances, pay subscriptions up to three months in advance.

Societies traditionally offer a higher rate of interest on Subscription Accounts as regular payments assist their cash flow. Building Societies Association recommended rate is 10 per cent per annum but many societies with both trustee status and Building Societies Association membership offer more.

Top of the interest league table is the Hinckley which offers 12.25 per cent on its Self Service shares for a minimum £1 per month and a maximum £40. No withdrawals are permitted and the rate falls to 8.75 per cent if the maximum of £500 is not reached. On reaching the maximum, the principal and accrued interest are either transferred to another account (where a lower rate applies) or a cheque is sent to the investor. Then payments can continue up to £500 again.

The Leamington Spa's Bonus account pays 11.93 per cent for monthly sums of £1 to £100 up to maximum of £3,600. This rate is calculated as 9.10 per cent for up to three years and, if held for that length, a 'bonus' of one-third of the interest is added.

The London-based Prop-

erty Owners offers 11.75 per cent on its Monthly Savings accounts from £1 to £100 per month. The rate falls to 10.75 per cent on June 1st.

Up to three withdrawals a year are permitted without penalty and closure of the account is on demand.

The Stockport-based Vernon Building Society offers 11.5 per cent for its Super

For the past month, building societies have been paying new rates to their investors. Conal Gregory takes a look at what is available on regular saving schemes where it is still possible to earn as much as 12.25 per cent

Savings account although the rate drops to 10.5 per cent on May 1st. In addition, the Vernon gives an extra 0.25 per cent where 12 consecutive payments are made in a calendar year. Sums from £1 to £100 per month may be invested up to £10,000 in total.

The Sussex County (based on Lewes) has increased the maximum sum that can be invested per month in its Regular Savings account to £200, which is double the April level. It offers 11.25 per cent. The minimum monthly sum is £10 and the account can continue until £5,000 has been reached.

Two higher paying Leicestershire societies are the Sheepshed and Loughborough Permanent. The Sheepshed's Subscription account from £1

(plus SDSs from Charterhouse)

All are run on broadly similar lines with no 'front end load' and no spread on the quoted price of shares.

All that is required to make a switch is a telephone instruction (generally before 11 am or noon), in which case currencies will be switched at the exchange rate prevailing that day.

Broader currency choice in new fund

Latest entrant into the currency market is Save & Prosper which launched this week: a Jersey based fund offering small investors the advantages of money market interest rates on relatively small sums of money, and a choice of four currencies.

With three banks already in the field, and pioneers Rothschild, way out ahead with their Old Court International Reserves fund, what has Save & Prosper to offer that is not already available?

At the moment the extra ingredient offered by S&P is the option to hold yen as well as sterling, US dollars or D-Marks. None of the other funds in the market have a yen facility. In addition, S&P is expecting to launch a cheque book facility but since this is not yet available it is only a potential advantage.

On the minus side S&P's charges are higher than its competitors. Rothschild for example makes a flat 0.75 per cent per annum charge on the value of its fund. S&P has a similar charge but can also deduct other management expenses up to a maximum total charge of 1.25 per cent a year — and admits that in the early years this will be the annual levy as they have to recoup their start-up costs.

The other funds also scored over S&P by offering a free switching facility between the different currencies — S&P investors get only one free switch per quarter and then there is a charge of £5 (or the currency equivalent) for each move. Of the three other multi-currency funds, Rothschild's Old Court International reserves offers the widest range of currencies with 10 to choose from and has taken in some \$22m since it was launched 16 months ago. Bankers Leopold Joseph and Charterhouse run the other two funds, both offering a choice of five currencies (plus SDSs from Charterhouse).

All are run on broadly similar lines with no 'front end load' and no spread on the quoted price of shares. All that is required to make a switch is a telephone instruction (generally before 11 am or noon), in which case currencies will be switched at the exchange rate prevailing that day.

However not many women in this situation appear to take advantage of the allowance. About 700 or so receive it in respect of around 1,100 children. The benefit is worth £7.70 a week, going up to £7.95 from next November.

It is paid in addition to the £5.25 weekly child benefit, which goes also to each eligible child. There is one drawback, though. Anyone who gets the £3.30 a week one-parent benefit has to give that up in order to get the higher child's special allowance.

How can a divorced woman qualify for the allowance? A

Homing in on the right solicitor



Francine Jordache: enterprise

How much does it cost to convey a house? People are used to shopping around for the cheapest packet of detergent or toothpaste, but are aghast at the thought of haggling with a solicitor over his fees.

Yet the experience of one homebuyer reveals just how much money can be saved if you are prepared to negotiate, what for many is a major item of cash expenditure.

Francine Jordache is probably a fairly typical first-time buyer. At the beginning of this year she started searching for a house and in February found what she wanted — a one-bedroomed flat in Whetstone, North London. She eventually agreed with the sellers a price of £23,300 which seemed reasonable, so she went to see her Halifax building society manager to arrange a loan. He agreed to lend her £21,000 on the property.

Francine had never needed a solicitor before so she did the sensible thing and asked the building society manager if he could recommend someone locally.

He put her in touch with three of the society's "panel" solicitors. If Francine used one of these, she would save the expense of correspondence between her solicitor and the solicitor who acts for the building society.

The manager suggested she got in touch with either Derrick Bridges and Co., or Boyes Sutton and Perry, or Milnes and Milnes, all of whom had offices in Wood Street, Barber. In addition, Francine's estate agent recommended Vander Pump and Sykes of Crouch End.

As a first time buyer Francine had nothing to sell so the conveyance was a straightforward purchase of the flat. Being an enterprising individual she rang all

four firms and was surprised to find that there were substantial differences in the fees quoted by the four solicitors.

"I talked to them on the telephone and they all said that the figures they quoted were rough estimates, but there was still a large difference between Boyes Sutton and Perry and the estimate from Derrick Bridges," says Francine.

All four solicitors quoted a flat £50 for the Land Registration fee and £116.50 Stamp Duty (back in February she would have been liable for stamp duty though this was subsequently changed by the Budget). Here the similarities ended.

Boyes Sutton and Perry was the most expensive by far, quoting a flat £300 fee plus £28 for sundries. Vander Pump & Sykes wanted £200 with £11.20 for sundries and £16.00 postage. Milnes & Milnes estimated a basic fee of £230 plus £10.20 local government search, and £40 mortgage arrangement fee for liaising with the Halifax. Cheapest was Derrick Bridges & Co. which quoted a flat fee of £190 plus £20 for sundries. All quoted varying figures for value-added tax which were not necessarily a flat 15 per cent of the basic fee. The totals including the standard charges for stamp duty (now no longer payable) and land registration fee looked like this:

Boyes Sutton & Perry £539.50
Milnes & Milnes £494.70
Vander Pump & Sykes £444.10
Derrick Bridges & Co. £414.50

"When I compared the quotes, I decided to use Derrick Bridges and Co.", says Francine. "However I must say they were all very helpful and they did stress that these were only rough estimates and that the final figure may turn out to be slightly lower."

The Law Society confirms that shopping around is the best policy and that there is nothing unusual in such large discrepancies between solicitors' estimates. "Homebuyers should take about half a dozen solicitors in their area and ask for estimates," says Mike Moriarty of the Law Society. "Solicitors will generally tend to keep to within 10 per cent either way of their original quote".

The Budget changes mean that Francine will now no longer be liable for Stamp Duty of £116.50, which is a big saving, but in addition, by spending a few hours making telephone calls, she has cut her legal costs by £125.

MONEY TALK

Account for low taxpayers

If regular income is your requirement and you pay little or no tax, a new account from National Westminster Bank might appeal. NatWest's new monthly income account is available to personal savers whether NatWest customers or not. Minimum investment is £2,000 and interest is paid monthly into a current account.

The interest rate will vary in line with changes in bank interest rates generally but NatWest says it intends to keep it above the current 7 day deposit rate. The new monthly income account is currently paying 12 per cent and will probably appeal to the elderly, and to teenagers who pay little or no tax.

NatWest's nearest competitor on this type of account is the National Savings Bank Investment account which has the distinct disadvantage of paying interest annually.

NSB should look to its rates and bring its methods of paying interest into the 20th century if it doesn't want to lose money to NatWest. NSB currently offers 13 per cent (from Monday) but unless you leave your money untouched for 12 months, it is almost impossible to achieve this return because of the way interest is calculated.

Stately target
Owners of stately homes seem to be the next target for the VATman. "A disposal of an article from a stately home by a person registered for value-added tax is likely to be liable to VAT if any one of the following conditions applies", warns the latest communication from Customs and Excise.

These are the conditions: A — if the article has been on view to the public. B — if the proceeds from the disposal of the article accrue to persons or bodies registered for VAT. C — if any VAT incurred on the purchase of the article was deducted as input tax (if it was acquired after April 1, 1973). D — if any VAT incurred on maintenance, repair or restoration of the article has been deducted as input tax.

VAT leaflet 701/12/82 explains in more detail and covers the disposal of antiques, works of art or other contents of stately homes.

Kidnap cover

Working abroad isn't all beer and skittles as anyone who is currently sweating it out in Argentina or The Falklands will confirm. One of the nastier hazards in some areas is the possibility of kidnap, internment, detention or hijack. Insurance brokers, Chandler, Hargreaves Whitall are offering cover for these risks as an optional extra to their British Expatriates Insurance policy. It already covers such eventualities as personal accident, medical expenses, and most important, any unexpected tax liability incurred as a result of a sudden recall to Britain. Cover can be bought in units — i.e. £5,000 of medical tax cover etc.

John McDonald

POSTBAG

Divorcees' child benefit

Woman who are largely dependent on maintenance from an ex-husband can find themselves in severe financial difficulties if he dies. But there is help available.

One such aid is the Child's Special Allowance, which can be paid every week to a divorced woman when her former husband dies. Alternatively, if the child (or children) are hers by her former husband, she may also be able to receive the allowance if he was getting child benefit for the children when he died.

However not many women in this situation appear to take advantage of the allowance. About 700 or so receive it in respect of around 1,100 children. The benefit is worth £7.70 a week, going up to £7.95 from next November.

It is paid in addition to the £5.25 weekly child benefit, which goes also to each eligible child. There is one drawback, though. Anyone who gets the £3.30 a week one-parent benefit has to give that up in order to get the higher child's special allowance.

If all these conditions are met, then the allowance can be paid. Claims should be made to the local office of

the Department of Health and Social Security. Documents needed will include the marriage certificate, evidence of divorce or annulment, and details of the payment or provision the former husband was making towards child support.

It is important to claim the Child's Special Allowance as soon as possible after the death of the former husband. The allowance cannot be paid back for more than three months from the time of the claim, unless there is a good reason for delay. In any event, it cannot ever be paid for more than 12 months before the date the claim is made.

Child's special allowance will continue until each child for whom it is being received reaches age 16, or 19, if he or she stays on at school. It also stops if the woman receiving it remarries, or if for any reason the child involved loses his entitlement to child benefit.

John McDonald

Arbuthnot Dollar Income Trust Limited

An Investment Portfolio of Dollar Securities in a Jersey Based Company, Quoted on The London Stock Exchange.

DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENT 15th APRIL 1982

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* Estimated market average yield available this fund on 15/4/82.

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Please send me a copy of the company's prospectus (on the terms of which alone

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Insurance tax penalties for the working wife

Now that insurance companies are cashing in on the working wife, isn't it about time they used their formidable lobbying power to persuade the Government and the Inland Revenue that the tax treatment of benefits paid under permanent health policies is unfair to married women?

Permanent health policies provide a regular weekly income when the policyholder falls sick, but after one year, these benefits are treated as investment income and taxed accordingly. For a married woman, the tax consequences of this can be appalling as the case of a Times reader, Mrs T, illustrates.

A senior college lecturer until she fell ill in April 1976, she has not worked since. Under her permanent health policy with Canada Life, she was eligible for benefits when she had been off work for a year. Five years later she is still receiving benefit.

In her case permanent health insurance was particularly important because one of her two children is disabled. If she was ill, she reasoned, it would not merely be a question of replacing her income (which in some years was greater than her husband's earnings) but of paying someone to help with her disabled daughter.

She now receives just over £2,500 a year from her Canada Life policy, but finds that nearly half of it is going into the tax man's pocket. Under the present rules a wife's investment income is lumped together with that of her husband and taxed at his highest rate. Permanent health benefits are — for some unknown reason — treated as investment income.

Mrs T says "I used to set aside 30% from my benefit each in tax. I never dreamt I



Mrs T: ill health, burdensome tax

would have to pay more than the basic rate until we received a letter from the Inland Revenue last December telling us there was extra to pay in the tax year just ended. I paid 45% tax on my permanent health benefit. I wonder how many other married women fall into the same trap. We are simply penalised for trying to protect our families."

If Mrs T's permanent health benefit were treated as earned income she and her husband could reduce their tax bill by opting to be taxed as single people. But this can only be done with earned

income not investment income.

There are two aspects to the problem. First, there is the tax position of the married woman. This is a confusion of fiscal chauvinism which is being reviewed at a leisurely pace by the Government following its publication early last year in a Green Paper on the taxation of married couples. Second, there is the problem of treating an individual permanent health plan differently from a group scheme.

Arguably there is a case for doing the same with permanent health benefits, particularly since pensions are treated as earned income.

Moreover there seems little justification for the present practice of treating an individual permanent health plan differently from a group scheme.

A company that buys permanent health benefit on behalf of its employees not only gets tax relief on the premium which is not available to the individual but the benefits are taxed as earned income in the employees' hands. The individual plan benefits are treated as investment income but there is one valuable concession not available to recipients of benefits under group schemes.

Margaret Drummond

Tax evaders feel the pinch

The Inland Revenue cracked down on workers in the "black economy" — particularly casual workers in Fleet Street, the licensed trade and the North Sea — is to continue, but the Revenue now seems more confident that the situation is coming under control.

Extra cash raised by the Inland Revenue's special investigations offices which deal with suspected tax evasion rose from £14m in 1979 to £28.8m by 1981, according to figures given by Sir Lawrence Airey chairman of the Inland Revenue, to a House of Commons committee this week.

Two new special investigations offices are to be opened in Bristol and London

bringing the total to 10, but Sir Lawrence expressed doubt about how much more of the estimated £4,000m revenue lost by tax evasion could be collected.

"It is fairly clear in the sense that the cost in manpower terms might be more than the Government might want to deploy".

Sir Lawrence continues to press for greater powers similar to those given to the Internal Revenue Service in the United States.

"We have no powers to make random investigations of taxpayers as they have in other countries" he said, pointing out that in this country the Inland Revenue must have evidence of tax evasion before mounting an investigation.

A pilot study by the revenue reveals that 20 per cent of taxpayers are underpaying their tax liability and 40 per cent are definitely not, with the balance of 40 per cent falling into a grey area of possible tax evasion. The biggest areas of tax evasion occur, said Sir Lawrence, in the transport, hotels and construction industries and among taxi firms and drivers.

Asked why the crackdown on Fleet Street workers had been so much more effective than investigations into North Sea oil rig workers, Sir Lawrence said, "unfortunately the North Sea is not amenable to quite the same approach because of the location of companies".

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Stock Exchange Prices **Late rally**

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, April 30. Dealings End, May 14. 5 Contango Day, May 17. Settlement Day, May 24.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

RUGBY UNION

Moseley are quietly confident

By Peter West, Rugby correspondent

One must be wary of discounting Moseley's chances against Gloucester in the John Player Cup final at Twickenham this afternoon. Their victory over the holders, Leicester, in the last round surprised most of us, and it may even have come as a bit of a surprise to them, too.

Before that success at the Bedding, the more pessimistic among Moseley's supporters were suggesting that their side had got as far in this season's knock-out competition as might reasonably be expected. Now, of course, the run is rather different. Having lost in the first final of all, to Gloucester in 1972, and then again to Leicester in 1979, Moseley now have an opportunity to win the title at the third attempt.

Those entering today's game with a quiet conviction that their team beat the favourites, provided they hold their own in the set pieces. The activities of Davidson at number four should provide a fair share of line-out ball, but are they capable of holding Gloucester in the scrummages?

That seems to be the key question, as it is difficult to believe that Gloucester's young men will fail to exert a telling pressure. And let no one underestimate the potential of their trio of loose forwards, one of whom, the blunder, Longstaff passed a fitness test yesterday afternoon.

The Moseley stand-off, half-Percy, scored 17 points against London Welsh in the quarter-final round, and all twelve against Leicester in the last one.

Cropper, Nutt, Jeavons and Cox are the four survivors from the Moseley side which lost the final to Leicester in 1979. Mills, Morgan and Boyle, the Gloucester stars, were there in the winning team against the same opposition a year earlier. May today's encounter erase for ever the memory of an abrasive, unfortunate game a decade ago?

Ulster begin a short tour of Romania when they meet the current leaders of the Romanian club, Bucharest, on Friday, May 12. David Hands writes: They are the second British Provincial side to visit Romania, following the paths trodden by Leinster two years ago. When the Romanian national league visited Ireland in October, 1980, they beat Ulster by only two points.

Ulster do not have a new ground by visiting Iasi in northern Romania; no British side has played in that area. Ulster who include the Irish wing, Keith Crossan in the party, which is managed by Ken Reid and coached by Willie John McBride, meet the local Politeknika side on Wednesday.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Big question mark against Hull

By Keith Macklin

Psychology and the conditioned reflex may play vital roles in the Challenge Cup final at Wembley today. If current form is the only arbiter, Hull will win since they have been playing attractive winning rugby with flair and free scoring style. Widnes, meanwhile, have struggled and fumbled their way through the closing stages of the season.

However, there is something about the special atmosphere of Wembley that can bring the best and the worst out of teams, a clear case of mind over matter which has several times in the past provided the difference between winning and losing on the big occasion. Widnes, after all, have won the cup three times since 1975 and are unlikely to be overawed by the crowd or the occasion.

The question mark is against the reactions of the Hull team. Three times in 1959, 1964 and 1980, Hull have been afflicted with the paralysis of the knees that is the Wembley syndrome. Hull have never won at Wembley, have won the Challenge Cup only once in nine attempts, and were last successful in 1914. This is a heavy psychological burden to bear.

If the Hull coach, Arthur Bunting, can send out his side brimming with the confidence of returning home winners, then, reminding his players that they beat Widnes 23-3 last Sunday, the cup should go to the Boulevard. At loose forward Norton is at the peak of his form, and Skerrett and Stone, the work of two men each, the back row. The flankers, Keanie, O'Hanrahan and Lelius will find his place under pressure from the powerful Day.

Widnes, move Hughes to stand-off to try to counteract the elusive Topliss, and the coach, Doug Ashton, takes the risk of bringing in the experienced Cunningham at centre despite his troublesome spinal injury. With three former Lance Todd Trophy winners in the squads, Topliss for Hull, and Burke and Lockwood for Widnes there is no lack of big name experience.

YACHTING

Law threatens Cudmore's cup

Harold Cudmore, the holder, and Chris Law were level on points with three wins each at the end of the first day's racing for the Long Life Royal Yachting Cup in Christchurch Bay yesterday. John Nichols writes. A total of 15 men in racing pairs had boats were held, leaving another 30 races to go before each of the 10 invited helmsmen will have sailed against each of the others.

So far the pre-series favourites have been kept apart, with the exception of Cudmore and Phil Crebbin, his colleague in the Victory Syndicates Americas Cup challenge. In their race Cudmore out-maneuvred Crebbin at the start and led throughout the race. What could well be the decisive match of the series will be today's final race between Cudmore and Law. Before that Law will have to face Crebbin, who might also affect the destiny of the trophy.

Results: GBR winners sailed: H. Cudmore and P. Crebbin (Australia), F. Lefebvre and R. Rossouw 2 pts; I. Murray (Australia) and R. Mulligan (Ireland) and R. Morgan (USA) 0 pts.

Soldier of Villa's misfortune

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Aston Villa won their third match against Anderlecht yesterday, 2-1, totalling an aggregate 570,000. The European Football Union, after a lengthy disciplinary committee meeting, decided to reject Anderlecht's appeal concerning crowd disturbances in Brussels and to allow Villa to play in the European Cup final against Bayern Munich in Rotterdam on May 26. That much was to be expected.

So, sadly, was UEFA's misguided reaction to the troubles which caused the second leg of the semi-final to be held up for seven minutes. They fined Villa £14,500, the biggest penalty imposed on any club for four years, and ordered the next home game to be staged behind closed doors. West Ham United similarly punished two years ago, lost about £40,000 through their "silent night" against Castilla at Upton Park, a smaller ground than Villa's.

The incidents were caused by drunken young some called Villa, who mingled with the Anderlecht supporters. Fighting broke out after one idiot lay supine on the penalty spot as Anderlecht mounted one of their rare attacks. The offender, a Scottish soldier based in Germany, was immediately hauled away and seemed to be knocked

unconscious by a baton wielded by a policeman.

Villa mercifully escaped such a heavy blow but, as in West Ham's case, the club have done more to avoid the problem. The 1,500 members of their supporters' club under their control had submitted photographs and passport numbers before they left Birmingham. Tucked away in a corner of the tightly enclosed stadium, they behaved impeccably throughout the ugly evening.

Anderlecht, fined a mere £3,000, still sold tickets to be sold openly on the eve and on the day of the match and also failed to segregate the two factions inside the ground. As some of the English visitors bought, and subsequently wore, hats and scarves in the purple and white colours of the Belgians, that task was far from easy.

It is these stray travellers, who did not know what well,

what to blame. Those alone should be punished — and be seen to be punished. As it was, the 27 that were arrested were all too evident in Villa's display until, in the end, they ran out comfortable winners.

It took them ages to promote their first modest attack but after 15 minutes of football inappropriate to the occasion they undeservingly took the lead. A long clearance from Findlay ought to have been controlled by Coffey, he failed, and Stead had no trouble in lobbing the ball over Wardle.

The lead was not put in peril when Stephens chested down a centre almost on the goalline, unaware that Bates was on his shoulder. Findlay, however, had to select a team from reserves, and Shrewsbury remained secure. Their football is dependent on the first touch being accurate and here it was regularly astray.

But for the diligent organizing of Horton at the back, Luton would have been penalized for their shoddy. Meanwhile Shrewsbury disguised their despair without doing more than slighting too good for the third division.

"The organizers are concerned about the number of tickets they have been left with," Ted Evans, secretary of the Football Association, said when he met his European counterparts in Dresden this week.

"But the problem really seems to be with the larger stadia which hold 60,000 or more. They expect

hold-ups in the stands," he said.

Mr Bond warned that Francis, who scored the winner, may not be made available for the World Cup competition if his group complains that his team had not been selected for the next two or three weeks. Ron Greenwood and England know that he can't go into the tournament without having the injury cleared by a specialist. That is what we are trying to do at the moment.

I have talked over the situation with him and we both realize that England cannot afford to take a player to Spain who is in any way a risk," he added. Mr Bond then added another surprise for today's game at Aston Villa by recalling Booyer who has only recently returned from Hong Kong where he was on loan to Bulova, as deputy for Francis.

The Board's dispute is with the Football Association. He feels the FA should compensate

those clubs who lose players injured whilst serving their country. This is the second time this season that City have lost Francis after an international.

City are not alone. Tottenham Hotspur will be without Middle, Hart, Pickering's disfigured left tackle for their next four games and West Ham United may not be able to play Goddard in England's Under-21 triumph over Scotland on Wednesday night, in their game against Arsenal.

Todays programme, indeed, is notable for international absentees. Sonnen, for instance, has recovered from his back trouble but cannot reclaim his place in Liverpool's side against Nottingham Forest. Bob Paisley, back in charge after suffering from pleurisy, selects the same team searching for their fifth consecutive victory over Wales at Ninian Park on Tuesday night.

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Anti-climax for
Soviet Union

Zino looks a French recipe for success

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

THERE was high drama on Newmarket Heath yesterday before racing even began when Cajun, the winner of the Greenham Stakes at Newbury a fortnight ago and Lester Piggott's first ride in today's £2,000 Guineas pricked a foot badly while out on exercise.

Henry Cecil, his trainer, said later that although Cajun had been declared fit to run today his exercise in the line-up had apparently depended on how the wound responded to treatment. If the worse comes to the worst and Cajun has to be withdrawn Piggott will not be far off the mark because he has a clear replacement in Rare Gift, who ran away with the Easter Stakes at Kempton.

Rare Gift's chance has improved considerably now that he has fallen on a course that had already been well watered and I expect to see him play a prominent part. But, as for the likely winner of this very open race, I am leaning towards Zino, who has won his first taste of success with his first taste of success. Anyone who has seen Silver Hawk, Wind And Wuthering and Zino today's classic can surely find resemblance in the fact that he set a new course record at Kempton last September when he beat Montekim by five lengths in the Solaris.

Wind and Wuthering has no chance of improving his form and soft ground. It is also in his favour that he likes to be up with the pace from the word go. That means Head should not experience any problems drawn where he is, No. 20, which is towards the back of the field. Unlike a number of his opponents, Zino has not done anything wrong this season. On the contrary, he won the Prix D'Orfebe at Maisons-Lafitte last

month in the style that one has come to associate with a future Guineas winner.

The racing double concerns the strength of the overall French form following the eclipse of their twin runners in the 1,000 Guineas on Thursday. Cauthen remains adamant that Zino has an excellent chance of winning and he is one of the most experienced men in the game.

Silver Hawk, Wind And Wuthering and Zino all form the hard core of Zino's opposition along with Rare Gift, Cajun, if he is alright, Tender King and Nioualou.

Silver Hawk's record in this particular classic has been nothing short of a catalogue of disasters since the days of Sir Iron and Nijinsky. Now Achieved is attempting to succeed where Minsky, Roberto Thatch, Apaches, The Minstrel, Try My Best, and Night Alert all failed to do him. When he beat Hays in the Campion Stakes at Doncaster last September he might have been a saviour but neither of his performances this spring has succeeded in capturing the imagination.

Twelve months ago Shapo looked and ran as if he was in need of a race in the Palace House Stakes and that may be the case again today. In the circumstances he would probably run in row with in Sayyaf at today's weights. Sayyaf is fit and in form and at this stage of the season he could have too many guns over only five furlongs for that three-year-old Peerhof and My Lover.

From start to finish and won the Dewhurst Stakes by seven lengths.

More often than not the top form of the previous year is unable when it comes to the Guineas. Accordingly, the State Cauthen will be told to adopt similar forcing tactics on Wind and Wuthering today and that the result should be a much better race than he did at Newbury now that the sting has gone out of the ground.

So with Wind and Wuthering,

Zino and possibly Full Extent

carrying the trial towards the fairytale of the Triple Crown.

Wind and Wuthering

will not have an easy task

judging the pace on Silver Hawk

from his No 1 draw nearest the rails.

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Even without the benefit of a previous run this season, I still believe Biksals will take all the beating in the 10f furlong Prix Gamby. Kalaglow had a curtailed season last year after pulling a ligament in the Epsom Derby. A year on, running soundly, he has shown the colt to be back to his best and, the almost certain furnish ground at Longchamp on Sunday, should enable Kalaglow to fill the runner-up position.

Wind and Wuthering, on whom Steve Cauthen, the American rider, will be seeking his second 2,000 Guineas

record at Kempton last

September,

is another

to watch.

Even though he has

been beaten

in the

Guineas

he has

run well

in the

Guineas

<p

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEED A NEW CARPET? See ADVERTISERS ONLY

BIRTHS
CHAGGS—On April 29, 1982, at St. John's Hospital, Michael Cuthbert, 3rd son, 4lb 10oz.

CUMMING—On April 29th, at the Royal Free Hospital and Dr. Michael Hospital, Michael Alexander, 1st son, 7lb 10oz.

DEVER—On April 29th, at the Royal Free Hospital, Michael Frank, 1st son, 7lb 10oz.

DOUGLAS—On April 29th, at the Royal Free Hospital, Robert Patrick, 1st son, 7lb 10oz.

FARMANFARMER—On April 29th, at the Royal Free Hospital, Jonathan, 1st son, 7lb 10oz.

LANCE—On April 29th, to Marlene and Martin—daughter (Emma).

LOTUS—On April 29th, at the Royal Free Hospital, Helen and Desmond, 1st daughter, 7lb 10oz.

MCGHEE—On April 29th, at Villa Europa, Rome, to John and Barbara—son, 7lb 10oz.

PALMER—On April 29th, at the Royal Free Hospital, Christopher James, a brother.

THOMAS—On 22nd April, to Ursula, wife of William Thomas.

WOOLF—On April 29th, to Stephen, William, Victoria, and David—a son (John Richard).

BIRTHDAYS

BARRATT—Happy birthday, Ione Sharpe and Clare. Please set in THE MAY QUEEN comes of age.

ELIZABETH Lloyd-Owen is 21 today. Many happy returns from her royal subjects.

MARRIAGES

FEILDEN : SHEPPARD—On Friday, 23rd April, at Reading Registry Office, to Henry and Lady Penman, and Anna, daughter of Michael and Jane Shepherd.

GOLDEN : WEDDING—On Saturday, 1st May, at St. Joseph's Church, Alfred and Norah Wimford, now at Windrush College, Padstow, Cornwall.

DEATHS

CALMANNE—On April 29, 1982, after a fall in his garden, Hans Maximilian Calmanne, aged 82, of Somerton, the much loved husband of Marianne, and Iris and grandmother of Caroline, Madeleine, Sophie, and Iris, and will be at Pilots' Church on Friday, May 4th.

FISHER—On April 29th, Brian Fisher, 66, of 10, Newlands Road, London, daughter of the late George Fisher, widow of Frederick Purton, and mother of Dick and Audrey, much loved grandmothers, and great-grandmother. Funeral at Cheltenham Crematorium at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, May 4th.

GWYN-JONES—On April 29th, Gwyn Jones, C.B.E., of 8 Southgate, Southgate, husband of Dorothy, much loved of Gareth and Lynette, and Cieran, Freeman of the Forest, and many others of education and family. Funeral at the Wellington Borough Council, London Green School, London, which has already taken place.

LAURENCE—Tragically as a result of a road accident, Geraldine Ruth Lawrence, S.R.N., aged 21, Funeral private, Family however, buried in Ireland.

MARSH—On 29th April, peacefull death at home, Alfred Williams, 81, of Kenton and Haverstock, beloved father and grandfather, and great-grandfather of Caroline, Victoria, and Daniel, and great-grandchildren. Funeral at Cheltenham Crematorium at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, May 4th.

PHILLIPS—On Wednesday, April 29th, at West Middlesex Hospital, Berlin, of 13, Woodland Avenue, Teddington, to Anthony Butler Phillips. Cremation, St. Michael's Cemetery, Teddington, 10.30 a.m. on Friday, May 4th.

PURVIS, JOHN HENDRICKSON—On Saturday, 1st May, at his residence, 48, Margrave Street, W.1, after a long illness.

REED, FRAN—On Friday, April 29th, at her home, 28, Margrave Street, W.1, after a long illness.

TRAILER TRAVEL—On Saturday, 1st May, at Station Master, at 10, Station Road, Ealing, home of John Saunders. Son, 10th May.

TUNNICLIFFE—On April 28th, at George Ropner Hospital, North Paddington, to Cyril Tunnicliffe, 84, of Monte Carlo, formerly of 10, Northcote Road, London, son of Captain and Mrs. Tunnicliffe.

WYNHAM—On 29th April, the much loved husband of the much loved Wynham. Funeral private. Thursday, 6th May.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

CATHERINE, 3rd Baroness of Thanksgiving for the life of Robert Vernon Bligh, Baronet, died 1971. Memorial service at the second battle of Ypres on May 2nd, 1915.

CLINCH, JAMES DANIEL M.D.—May 1st, 1982. In loving memory of Dr. Clinch.

DEAS, IN P.C.—In loving memory of Dr. Deas.

EARNS, JESSE—On 1st May.

FADDE, WILFRED—On 1st May.

THOPGOOD—In ever loving memory of our son Robert, who was killed in a fatal accident in Saudi Arabia, May 1st, 1981.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HAMPSTEAD BOOK FAIR

Books & Antiquarian

Sun. 2nd May, 11 am-5 pm

On Tuesday, 3rd May, 10 am-5 pm

Adm. 20p.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTNIGHTLY PICTURE FAIR

Sunday, 1st May, 10 am-5 pm

At 78 Hampstead High St., NW3 10pp. Belvoir Pk. Stn.

Adm. 20p.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY

01-837 3311

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

01-837 3311

PROPERTY, BUSINESS AND RENTALS (Trade only)

01-770 9231

APPOINTMENTS

01-776 9161

PERSONAL (Trade only)

01-837 0507

The Times, Times Newspapers Limited,

P.O. Box No. 7, New Printing House Square,

Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEED A NEW CARPET? See ADVERTISERS ONLY

RICHARD GRIFFITHS from Sporty Dog Fury, Robbie Padgett and Bill Nighy. Not forgetting Bill Nighy.

THE WARREN HOUSE Children's TO MY BEAUTIFUL NEIGHBOURS.

The Times may be changing but the feelings for you will never change.

NIKON, OLYMPUS, HASSELBLAD, AGFA, etc. drops bigger names than Agfa, Kodak, Dior, etc.

DOUGLAS—On April 29th, at the Royal Free Hospital, Roger, son of Captain and Mrs. Douglas, a brother.

FARMANFARMER—On April 29th, at the Royal Free Hospital, Jonathan, son of Captain and Mrs. Farmanfarmer.

LANCE—On April 29th, to Marlene and Martin—daughter (Emma).

LOTUS—On April 29th, at the Royal Free Hospital, Helen and Desmond, 1st daughter (Emma).

MCGHEE—On April 29th, at Villa Europa, Rome, to John and Barbara—son, 7lb 10oz.

PALMER—On April 29th, at the Royal Free Hospital, Christopher James, a brother.

THOMAS—On 22nd April, to Ursula, wife of William Thomas.

WOOLF—On April 29th, to Stephen, William, Victoria, and David—a son (John Richard).

YOUNG—On April 29th, to Jane and Dennis—daughter (Sarah).

BIRTHS

BARRATT—Happy birthday, Ione Sharpe and Clare. Please set in

THE MAY QUEEN comes of age.

ELIZABETH Lloyd-Owen is 21 today. Many happy returns from her royal subjects.

MARRIAGES

FEILDEN : SHEPPARD—On Friday, 23rd April, at Reading Registry Office, to Henry and Lady Penman, and Anna, daughter of Michael and Jane Shepherd.

GOLDEN : WEDDING—On Saturday, 1st May, at St. Joseph's Church, Alfred and Norah Wimford, now at Windrush College, Padstow, Cornwall.

DEATHS

CALMANNE—On April 29, 1982, after a fall in his garden, Hans Maximilian Calmanne, aged 82, of Somerton, the much loved husband of Marianne, and Iris and grandmother of Caroline, Madeleine, Sophie, and Iris, and will be at Pilots' Church on Friday, May 4th.

FISHER—On April 29th, Brian Fisher, 66, of 10, Newlands Road, London, daughter of the late George Fisher, widow of Frederick Purton, and mother of Dick and Audrey, much loved grandmothers, and great-grandmother. Funeral at Cheltenham Crematorium at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, May 4th.

GWYN-JONES—On April 29th, Gwyn Jones, C.B.E., of 8 Southgate, Southgate, husband of Dorothy, much loved of Gareth and Lynette, and Cieran, Freeman of the Forest, and many others of education and family. Funeral at the Wellington Borough Council, London Green School, London, which has already taken place.

LAURENCE—Tragically as a result of a road accident, Geraldine Ruth Lawrence, S.R.N., aged 21, Funeral private, Family however, buried in Ireland.

MARSH—On 29th April, peacefull death at home, Alfred Williams, 81, of Kenton and Haverstock, beloved father and grandfather, and great-grandfather of Caroline, Victoria, and Daniel, and great-grandchildren. Funeral at Cheltenham Crematorium at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, May 4th.

PHILLIPS—On April 29th, at West Middlesex Hospital, Berlin, of 13, Woodland Avenue, Teddington, to Anthony Butler Phillips. Cremation, St. Michael's Cemetery, Teddington, 10.30 a.m. on Friday, May 4th.

REED, FRAN—On Friday, April 29th, at her home, 28, Margrave Street, W.1, after a long illness.

TRAILER TRAVEL—On Saturday, 1st May, at Station Master, at 10, Station Road, Ealing, home of John Saunders. Son, 10th May.

WYNHAM—On 29th April, the much loved husband of the much loved Wynham. Funeral private. Thursday, 6th May.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

CATHERINE, 3rd Baroness of Thanksgiving for the life of

Robert Vernon Bligh, Baronet, died 1971. Memorial service at the second battle of Ypres on May 2nd, 1915.

CLINCH, JAMES DANIEL M.D.—May 1st, 1982. In loving memory of Dr. Clinch.

DEAS, IN P.C.—In loving memory of Dr. Deas.

EARNS, JESSE—On 1st May.

FADDE, WILFRED—On 1st May.

THOPGOOD—In ever loving memory of our son Robert, who was killed in a fatal accident in Saudi Arabia, May 1st, 1981.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HAMPSTEAD BOOK FAIR

Books & Antiquarian

Sun. 2nd May, 11 am-5 pm

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GENERAL

SIR STEWART PRINGLE

Appealed to you last Sunday

on behalf of

the Second Battle of Ypres on

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APPOINTMENTS

Television and radio: Saturday and Sunday

Edited by Peter Daville

BBC 1

6.25 Open University: Teaching and Control; 6.50 Stantonbury; 7.15 Home and Country; 7.40 Rodin; 8.30 Complex Human Ecosystems; 9.05 Sorry Mate, I Didn't See You; for the young motorcyclist; 8.30 Get Set For Summer: Motorcycling with David Essex, and music and fashion from Toyah; 11.00 Lucky Luke: Full-length cartoon; 12.12 Weather; 12.15 Gameplan: The line-up is; — 12.20 Football Focus; 12.55 International Snooker (Steve Davis in the Embassy Championships) More; 2.10, 5.30 (BBC 2) 9.15 and 11.40; 1.20 Haydock Racing; 1.40 Ice Hockey (from Helsinki); 1.55 Haydock — Racing; 2.10 Snooker; 2.40 Haydock Racing; 2.40 Rugby League; The Challenge Cup Final: Widnes v Hull; 3.45 Half-time scores; 3.45 Rugby League (contd).

5.10 The All Pink Panther Show; three cartoons.

5.30 News: with Jan Leeming; 5.40 Sports, And regional news.

5.45 Pop Quiz: The quizmaster is Mike Read, and the two teams are captained by Phil Collins (of Genesis) and Bill Bruford (Free).

6.15 Film: Mayday, 40,000ft (1976) Aircraft hijacking drama, with David Janssen piloting an airliner crippled by a bullet fired during a gun battle. Also starring Ray Milland and Broderick Crawford.

7.45 Mastermind: Champions: Winners from the past 10 years of Mastermind compete in a grand final. There is an audience poll tomorrow night, and the final takes place on Monday. The indispensable question master is Magnus Magnusson.

8.25 The Val Doonican Music Show: with Barbara Dixon, Ray Charles and his singers and actor/singer Dennis Waterman. Also a Val Doonican request spot.

9.10 Dynasty: First instalment of a new American-made film about a Colorado oil tycoon (John Forsythe), his family and his women. It should appeal to the same audience who found Saturday nights empty and meaningless when an episode of Dallas wasn't being screened.

10.35 News, And sports round-up.

10.40 Match of the Day: Jimmy Hill introduces highlights from two of the day's Football League matches. The April Goal of the Month competition winner is announced.

11.40 Pearl: Final instalment of this American-made drama serial about the Japanese invasion of Pearl Harbor. Tonight, the savage attack is launched and the island comes under martial law. For the characters whose fortunes we have been following for the past three weeks, nothing can ever be quite the same again. Starring Angie Dickinson, Robert Wagner, Dennis Weaver and Lesley Ann Warren. Ends at 1.05.

Linda Evans: Dynasty (BBC 1, 9.10)

BBC 2

6.25 Open University: Berlin Siegfrieden, 6.50 Harmony, 7.15 Sexual Identity, 7.40 Teaching and Control, 8.05 Polluted Water, 8.30 Farmers' Decisions, 9.00 Trumpton (r) 9.15, Nal Zindagi! Naya Jeevan, 9.45 Supervisors: Problems, problems; (r) 10.10 Micros in the Classroom: school micro-computers, 10.35 The Engineers: Ron Clark (r) 11.00 The Skill of Lip-Reading: marriages under strain; (r) 11.25 Telé-Montage: Homage to Georges Brassens, (r) 11.50 Delta Smith's Cookery Course, off-air; (r) 12.15 This is the Day: The all-embracing religious programme, 12.55 Farming, 1.25 Education Shop; (r) 1.50 News and weather, 1.55 Film: Brief Encounter (1945) A near-adversarial relationship in suburbia; 3.35 Cartoon: 3.45 The High Chaparral: venerable western.

4.35 Buskers: Companion piece to last Sunday's film about London's unofficial musicians. Today, the music-makers in the city's Underground, and the game they play with London Transport police.

5.00 The Ondine Line: Drama series, set in the days of the tall ships; (r)

5.50 News: with Jan Leeming. And weather forecast.

6.00 Antiques Roadshow: Arthur Negus and Hugh Scully in Bolton. Organ buffs are given a final look at the fine instrument that was the pride of town: Albert Hall. The building was burnt down shortly after this show was recorded, and the organ was destroyed.

6.40 Songs of Praise: The good folk of Evesham tell their stories to Michael Barratt, and their favourite hymns are sung in All Saints Parish Church.

7.15 Nye: Fergie's play about the great Welsh politician Aneurin Bevan stars John Hartley, a BBC Wales production. (See Choice)

8.05 Mastermind: Second semi-final of this competition featuring Mastermind winners over the past 10 years. They include former London taxi driver, now radio and television personality, Fred Housego. The question master is Magnus Magnusson. The final is tomorrow night.

8.45 News: the reader is Jan Leeming.

8.45 Omnibus: Barry Norman talks to the veteran ballet dancer Anton Dolin, the other half of the partnership with Alicia Markova. He is now 77, and still active. Norman also talks to author Susan Hill.

10.45 Choices: Personal dilemmas, explained by members of the studio audience, and discussed by Tony Whitehouse, Kenneth Williams and Philip Whitehead, MP, in the chair: Libby Purves.

11.30 Your Mind in Their Hands: the case histories of three women suffering from different sorts of mental illness.

11.45 International Show Jumping: The Kengyld Championship, at Hickstead.

12.15 Weather forecast.

CHOICE

● JERUSALEM'S ARMY (ITV, 10.25pm) attempts to do for 150 years of mass unemployment in Britain what Oh What a Lovely War did for the four years of the First World War. There is the same bitter counterpoint between song and picture, the same remorseless upward spiral of statistics (for the dead men of war read the dead-and-men of peace), the same looming phantom casting dark shadows over humanity's fate (or Armageddon, read inflation). Tonight's musical documentary shares something else with Oh What a Lovely War — the concern and initial success of Alfred Radcliffe. He has a remarkable talent for using music to take the worst of the pain out of social

CHOICE

travail. Also to be admired in Jerusalem's Army — the grim cartoon sequences which have made the commentator's role redundant.

● It is mostly a good day for films on TV. Orson Welles's THE LADY FROM SHANGHAI (BBC 2, 12.05am) is rightly famous for its chillingly shadowed out-of-the-hall-of-mirrors at an amusement park, and for the concentrated evil of Everett Sloane. And there is superb climax of a very different sort in Charles Crichton's HUM AND CRY (BBC 2, 3.15pm), with its tidal wave of work in its own right.

London boys enacting a gang of crooks. An early Ealing success, this, confidently pointing the way to the studio's extraordinary future.

● One of the highest compliments I can pay Alfred Bradley's production of A TASTE OF HONEY, given another airing on Radio 4 at 8.30pm as part of the Dramatic Revival season, is that as it unfolded, it made me stop comparing it with the Tony Richardson film and emerged as a first-rate piece of work in its own right.

● Musical highlight: the centenary concert of the Berlin Philharmonic (Radio 3, 7.00pm), with von Karajan conducting Mahler's Ninth

BBC 2

6.25 Open University: Today's subjects range from Neurophysiology at 6.25 and Human Factors in Aviation at 8.50 to Microfossils at 1.05 and Evolution of Fishes at 1.30. OU programme ends at 1.55, followed by Sunday Grandstand: Today's line-up consists of International Snooker at 2.00 (the third day's play in the Embassy Professional Championship, from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield; more at 9.05 and 10.45 tonight); Ray Reardon, Fred Davis and Dennis Taylor are all playing today; 2.30 International Show Jumping: With the Kengyld Championship, at Hickstead; 3.00 The Rugby League Cup Final.

4.00 Sunday Grandstand: continues with further coverage of International Snooker, International Show Jumping and the Rugby League Cup Final.

5.50 News Review: with Jan Leeming and Sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

7.17 The World About Us: Last Days in Sinaia, The Sri Lanka peninsula, captured by Israel during the 1967 war, has now been handed back to Egypt. Trevor Philpot finds out what happened to Sinaia during the 15 years it was occupied.

8.05 News: with Jan Leeming.

8.10 The Woman in White: Second showing of episode 3 of the Wilkie Collins' mystery overhauls Marian (Dawn French) overhauls Foster (Paul Glynn) (Alan Badel and John Sharpen) plotting Laura's death. (r)

8.45 News from ITN.

9.05 International Snooker: Episode 5 of the Stan Barlow story. Vic and Ingrid (Clive Wood and Joanna Whalley) have now become a married couple, and Vic's three wives are still in their relationships, beginning to show. Offered a job in Essex, Vic wants to accept it, but Ingrid is not happy about leaving the North. Also, her ignorance of world affairs is getting under her husband's skin.

10.15 Tales of the Unexpected: The Eavesdropper. Listening in to a café conversation, a wife (Dorothy Tutin) is convinced that her husband (Michael Craig) is being unfaithful to her.

10.45 The South Bank Show: Caught in the Act: What happened at Wormwood Scrubs maximum security prison? The inmates staged the farce Piss in Peace with the help of professional actresses (see Choice).

11.45 London news headlines: They are followed immediately by Nightflight: the Steve Gibbons Band in a rock concert recorded in Bremen. 0.30 Close: Mary Craig with a reading on the theme of love and the mystery of life.

CHOICE

● "One Lloyd George is enough", says a character in Paul Ferra's drama-documentary NYE (BBC 1, 7.15pm). I congratulate BBC Wales on not taking their cue from me, as my photograph indicates. But the voice is exactly right, too and it is this which provides the essential key to any understanding of the power of this charismatic Welsh rebel.

● The best of the rest of today's programmes: CAUGHT IN THE ACT

the South Bank Show's rewarding excursion to Wormwood Scrubs (ITV, 10.45pm) to see how some killers, arsonists and other long-serving prisoners put on a play with the help of four professional actresses... and BRIEF ENCOUNTER (BBC 1, 1.55pm), which is being put out at short notice as a tribute to the late Celia

ITV/LONDON

9.05 Me and My Camera: how your living room can become a studio (r); 9.35 Lost Islands: marooned children drama serial (r); 10.00 Morning Worship: from Ampleforth Abbey, Yorkshire; 10.35 The Tinker's Tale: The al fresco life of Jock Fraser, the cycling tinker; 11.00 Getting On: hearing problems of the elderly; 11.30 Sport Billy: cartoon; 12.00 Weekend World: The latest developments in the Falklands crisis; 1.00 The Flying Kiwi: a family and their vintage car (1929, Vauxhall Huntingdon); 1.30 Skin: the plight of the elderly in London's Indian and Asian communities; 2.00 The World About Us: Northern Ireland News and Sport; 1.5 am Northern Ireland news: headlines and weather, England 5.40-5.45 pm South-West (Plymouth): Spotnight. Sport. All other English regions: Sport/Regional News, 1.10 am Close.

Pierre Clementi in Benjamin (ITV, midnight)

ITV/LONDON

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Test-tube twins 'are doing well'

By Nicholas Timmins

The first test-tube twins to be born in Britain were last night said to be "very healthy for their size and doing well".

The twins, Daniel and Christopher, were born to Mrs Josephine Smith, aged 31, at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, north London, just before midnight on Thursday night.

They weighed 4lb 1oz and 5lb 2oz and were both delivered naturally, six weeks premature. Last night they were in the special care baby unit at the hospital, as a routine precaution.

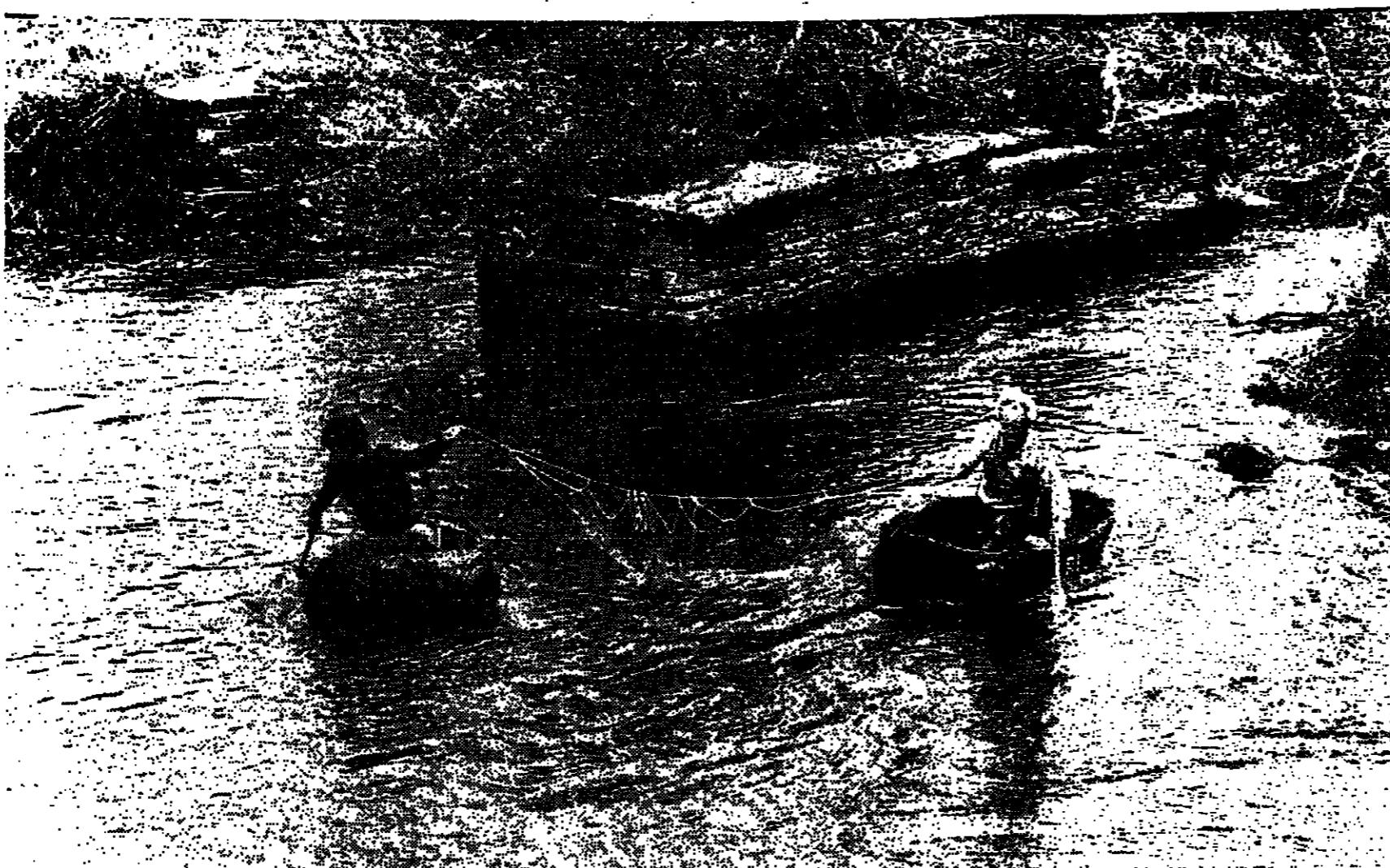
They are the first test-tube babies born within the National Health Service since 1978 and 1979 when three were delivered under Dr Robert Edwards and Mr Patrick Steptoe at Oldham General Hospital. The twins make the team led by Professor Ian Craft, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at the Royal Free, only the second in Britain to achieve success with the technique.

In Mrs Smith's case, three fertilized eggs were replaced to increase the chances that one of them would implant. All three implanted initially, but one foetus then died.

Mrs Smith, aged 31, an inland Revenue civil servant, and her husband Stewart, a Post Office worker, come from Stockport. She had been unable to have a child because she was born with one fallopian tube missing, and had to have the other removed after an ectopic pregnancy. Thus her only hope of having a child was by the test-tube baby technique.

Professor Craft said last night he hoped similar births could happen throughout the health service (the Press Association reports). "If we can make the technique simpler and available in more district general hospital settings, then it is some hope for the future."

Research fears, page 2



A coracle pair working down the River Teifi, their net strung between them, before carrying home their catch and craft (below).

The netsmen nettled

From Tim Jones, Llechryd, Dyfed

In far west Wales an annual battle older than Christianity has begun again. Salmon and sea trout, sensing the fresh water pouring into Cardigan Bay, are moving up the rivers of their birth to breed in the upper reaches where fine gravel provides a nursery for their spawn.

Mr Bernard Thomas, a coracle man for fifty years, agrees that the fish stocks have fallen, but firmly denies that his ancient method is responsible for the decline.

"In 1860 there were 300 pairs on this river and salmon were so plentiful that farmers had to undertake not to take their share of the harvest.

It is a timeless scene, but one the coracle men fear is threatened. The Welsh Water Authority, alarmed by decreasing stocks, is seeking

new curbs to protect a business worth £30m a year.

The coracle men say their livelihood is being sacrificed to placate the wealthy angling clubs of England on whose stretches of the river thousands of members fish each year.

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agrees that the fish stocks have fallen, but firmly denies that his ancient method is responsible for the decline.

"In 1860 there were 300 pairs on this river and salmon were so plentiful that farmers had to undertake not to take their share of the harvest.

Now, there are only 16 licences for 32 pairs, but the authority issued more than

22,000 licences last year to individual anglers."

Mr Thomas, who once crossed the English Channel in a coracle, has lobbied Parliament with his craft on his back to gain protection for what he considers an integral part of Celtic culture.

"We have been persecuted

since the time of James I and now it seems that the water authority wants to reduce the number of licences to just twelve. Others go even further and say we should only have six licences. Only anglers are now allowed Llechryd Bridge. I am disgusted that in 1982 a body of people, because they are in the majority, should want to suppress the ancient craft of a minority."



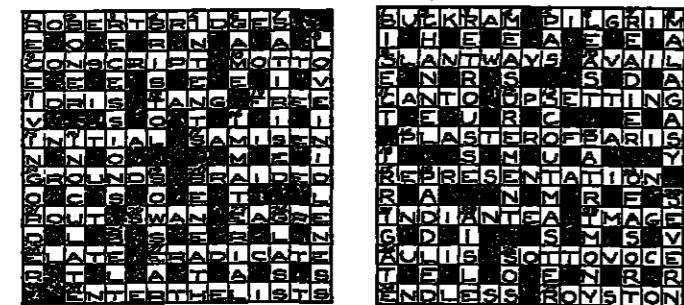
THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Anne, Duchess of Gloucester, Air Chief Commander Women's Royal Air Force attends Air Gunners' Association Bomber Command reunion dinner at Grosvenor House Hotel, London, 6.30.

Solution of Puzzle No 15,814



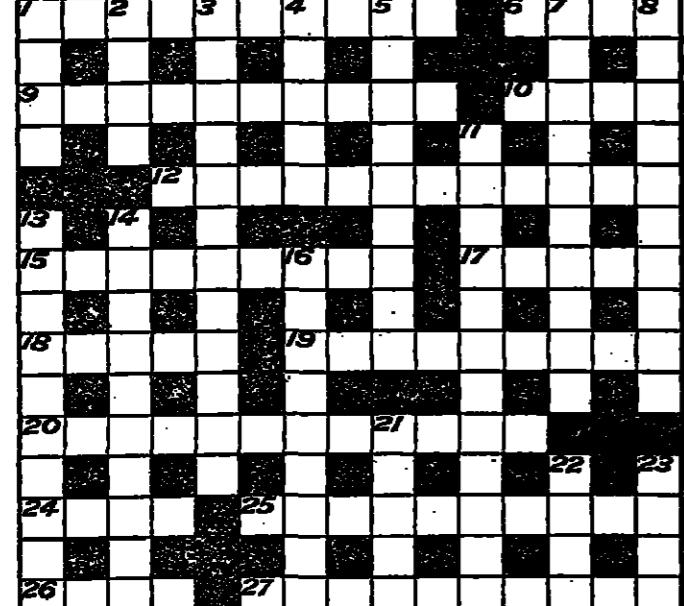
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,820

4 prizes of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first correct solution opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Caley Street, London WC9 9YT. The winner and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winner of last Saturday's competition is Mr. W. S. Allen, 24, Sherlock Road, Cambridge.

Name

Address



May Day

May Day festival — Victoria Park, E8; Music, theatre, stalls, sideshows and fireworks; from 11.

May Day celebration — The Barbican Centre; 11 to 1 — children's party with dancing, folk music, French and Judy, etc; the dry and traditional English folk dancing and entertainments.

Talks, lectures

Painting of the month — David Hockney; Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy; 2.30; and Monet — Three stages of Impressionism by Laurence Bradbury, 3; both at Tate Gallery.

Wild Flowers of the chalk and limestone, by Joyce Pope; National History Museum, 3.

Life of the Virgin in medieval art — Pevsner; 12; and Paul Stainforth, Miranda Nease, 3; both at Victoria and Albert Museum.

The conventions of naturalism in early Flemish painting by Charles Ford, National Gallery, 12.

From Amber to the Atom — development of electricity, by John Stevenson, Science Museum.

Wonders of the ancient world, the Museum at Halicarnassus, by Margaret Lynton, British Museum, 2.30.

Concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Town Hall, Birmingham, 7.

Britten's centenary concert including specially commissioned overture entitled The Brontes by Wilfred Josephs; Civic Theatre, Halifax, 7.30.

Recital by the choir of Gloucester Cathedral, conducted by Philip Lawrence, organist Peter Wright; St. Matthew's Church, Gloucester, 7.30.

Bristol Proms, Colston Hall, Colston Street, Bristol, 7.30.

General Beer Festival, Pavilion, North Parade Road, Bath, 11 to 2.30.

Tomorrow

May Day Steam Sunday; steam train rides and side shows; Quanton Railway Centre, Quanton Road, Quainton, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire; 10 to 6.

Bygones weekend; and outdoor exhibition of domestic and agricultural and industrial goods reflecting history of Burwell; Burwell, Cambridge; 10 to 4.

Craft fair and exhibitions at Leedes Castle, near Maidstone, Kent; 12 to 5.

Jousting at Chilham Castle, near Canterbury, Kent; gates open 12 noon; jousting begins 2.30 to 4.

Talks, lectures

St Teresas, Spain, by Rev Dr Colin Thompson, St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, 3.30.

Humanism with feeling, by Nicolas Walter, Library, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, WC1, 11.

Music Concert by the Raglan Baroque Players, St. John's Smith Square, Westminster, 7.30.

Bristol Proms, Colston Hall, Colston Street, Bristol, 7.30.

With the Hiss and Boo Band, Phoenix Arts, 6 Newark Street, Leicester, LE1, 12.

Walks Picnicque Hampstead village and the Heath, meet Hampstead and the Heath, 11.

Spain Pta 150.00 181.00

Sweden Kr 10.26 10.28

Switzerland Fr 3.66 3.44

USA \$ 1.65 1.78

Yugoslav Dinar 98.00 92.00

Notes for small sums can be sent to the Bank of England, 10 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8AH, or to the Bank of England, 10 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8AH.

21 result, publication (5).

22 Chaff about one revel (4).

23 Oath used by renegades (4).

24 Walk-hunting 10 in the Bible? (4).

25 Item One on the agenda before doing anything else (5,5).

26 Openings in the East, certainly (4).

27 Sang, being famous (10).

The three junior winners, inadvertently omitted last week, of the Easter Egg Crossword Competition are Stephen Cooper, 12 Rodens Close, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire; and Miss E. M. Morgan, 55 Ben Nevis Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside. They will each receive £25.

May Day

The origin of this festive day may be in the nature worship of pagan Celtic communities. Most

sources, however, seem to agree

that it originated in the floral

games of ancient Rome, albeit

that by the reign of Augustus

there was no flowering of

the day became an occasion to

revel in the newly arrived bloom

in the fields. In particular, it was

an opportunity for city dwellers

to enjoy the delights of the

countryside.

The maypole was a distinctive

feature in every town and village

in the land, the parish of St

Andrew Undershaft giving its

name from the maypole that

was higher than any other in

the town. Over the centuries

the maypole has become a symbol

of the coming of spring and

the start of summer.

The sun is gaining strength so

shading should be applied to a

greenhouse. Green plastic blinds

may be fitted inside, or shading

material such as Coolglass

sprayed or painted on the glass

outside.

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outside.

In the garden

Herbaceous perennials, delphiniums, paonies and the like

are growing fast and need staking.

Pea sticks may be available in country districts but are unobtainable in towns. So canes and string or wire plant supports are the answer, but do supports the plants stand before they are beaten down by rain.

Slugs and snails are around in

large numbers having apparently

survived the cold winter. Put down slug bait, or water the ground around slug's favourite

plants like lettuce with a liquid

slug killer, such as Slugsit. The

insect control is safer if there are plants about, but another application will be needed after heavy rain.

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